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TRAVELS

THROUGH

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, ITALY

AND

SICILY.

Gertian Ludlow.
Frances

TRAVELS

THROUGH

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, ITALY,

and SICILY. F. A. Carroll

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

OF

FREDERIC LEOPOLD COUNT STOLBERG,

BY THOMAS HOLCROFT.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

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CONTENTS OF VOL. III.

LETTER LXIV. — Page 1.

THE palace of the Capo di Monte, its pictures, vases, gems, bassi-relievi, coins, and curiosities—Pictures in the church of San Domenico Maggiore, and of St. Januarius—Miracles, monks, and archbishops—Statues in the University—The Farnese Hercules praised and censured—Statues and busts at the porcelain manufactory—Remarkable busts of Vitellius, M. J. Brutus, and Homer.

LETTER LXV. — Page 14.

Visit to Solfatara: its burning earth and volcanic properties—Connection between the Lucrine lake and that of Avernus—The Sibyl's grotto—Hot baths, and eggs boiled—Ruins of Pozzuoli.

LETTER LXVI. — Page 24.

A visit to Mount Vesuvius during an eruption—Characteristic traces of Vesuvius and volcanoes in general

—The discovery of Herculaneum—Grandeur of the spectacle of Mount Vesuvius—The death of Pliny, and historical traces of this mountain.

LETTER LXVII. — Page 43.

Another visit to Mount Vesuvius, description of the phenomena it affords.

LETTER LXVIII. — Page 49.

The Lake of Agnano—The Grotta del Cane—The Stufe di San Germano, and Gli Pisciarelli.

LETTER LXIX. — Page 55.

The promontory of Misenum, and its grand and extensive prospects.

LETTER LXX. — Page 62.

Publius Scipio Africanus—An excursion to Liternum, or Patria—Lago di Patria—Plants, fruits, and flowers—Dragon, robbers, tombs, and cattle.

LETTER LXXI. — Page 70.

Numerous antiquities of the neighbourhood of Naples —Historical traces of Pompeii—Fertility of the country—Volcanic remarks—Pompeii visited, its ruins, houses, inhabitants, antiquities, skeletons, baths, utensils, paintings, mosaic work, glass, and dead bodies.

LET-

LETTER LXXII. — Page 93.

The Catacombs of the hill Posilipo described and characterized.

LETTER LXXIII. — Page 100.

The royal museum at Portici, and its antiquities, statues, vases, vessels, lamps, ancient utensils, paintings, armour, gems, manuscripts, and general contents.

LETTER LXXIV. — Page 117.

Excursive walk on the sea-shore at Naples—Products of the sea and land—Fertility of the country.

LETTER LXXV. — Page 126.

A visit to Aversa and its productive gardens, and to the island of Nisida.

LETTER LXXVI. — Page 131.

Nola, its ancient history, vases and bells—Anecdotes and characteristic features of several ancient Romans.

LETTER LXXVII. — Page 140.

The islands of Procida, Ischia, and Capri—Fertility, population, baths, curiosities, grand scenery, and native beauties of these islands—Epomeus characterized—Critical remark on Homer—Tiberius and his palaces. Anecdotes of Italian temperament—Dancing, ancient and modern—Sorento, and its extraordinary beauties—Tasso.

LETTER LXXVIII. — Page 188.

The ruins of Poſidonia, Pæſtum, or Peſto—Fertile country, inſalubrious air—The temple of Neptune, and other noble ruins—Flying glow-worms—The town and haven of Salerno.

LETTER LXXIX. — Page 198.

Departure from Naples—The road to Avellino—Agricultural remarks—Puglia, its cattle and productions—Remarks on the journey of Horace to Brunduſium—Italian curioſity—The battle of Cannæ—Barletta.

LETTER LXXX. — Page 223.

Journey from Barletta to Taranto—The province and towns of Bari characterized—Huts of the Adriatic—Santo Triphone, San Cataldo, Madonna della Scala, and Italian ſuperſtition. The cork-tree—Ancient Tarentum—Phalantus and Aithra—The Tarentini—Modern Taranto, and its bays, ſhores, people, and ſports characterized—The humours of a Saint's day—The fumolo, the pinna, and the tarantula—Derivation of Tarantine words.

LETTER LXXXI. — Page 272.

Journey to Gallipoli—Manduria and Oria deſcribed and characterized—Brindiſi, or ancient Brunduſium, its havens, inhabitants and trade—Lecce, and its buildings, judicature, municipal government, roads,

roads, rocks, and soil—Otranto, and its neighbourhood—Gallipoli, its situation, commerce, cotton, oil, gum, and wine—Characteristic traits of the Italians.

LETTER LXXXII. — Page 299.

Journey to Catanzaro—Historical sketches of ancient Croton and its inhabitants—Pythagoras—The Sybarites—Anecdotes of Democedes—The river Esaro—Modern Cotrone—Hospitality, roads, robbers, feudal rights—Catanzaro, and barracks.

LETTER LXXXIII. — Page 320.

Journey to Oppido—Characteristic marks of the province of Calabria—Fondaco del Fico—Monteleone—Meleto—Rosarno—Grafting of olives—Oppido—Historical anecdotes, and strange and tremendous effects of the earthquake of 1783*—Desolate state of Calabria.*

LETTER LXXXIV. — Page 334.

Journey to Reggio—Bagnara—Scylla—The earthquake and its effects—Conjectures on earthquakes and electricity—Enquiries concerning Scylla and Charybdis—Curious remarks on the sword-fish, and the manner in which it is taken—Strange and oppressive feudal custom—The straits and promontory of Faro—Improvement of Calabria in silk and wine—Historical anecdotes of ancient Rhegium—Modern Reggio described—Locri, and the wise laws of Zaleucus—Fertility and scenery of Calabria.

LETTER LXXXV. — Page 364.

Journey to Meſſina—Homer characterized—Antiquarian conjectures—Settlers and pirates in Sicily—Revolutions of that iſland—John of Procida, and the Sicilian Veſpers—Hiſtorical traces of Meſſina—Courage of the women when the city was beſieged; its preſent ſtate, population, haven, ſhops, buildings, palazata and fortifications.

LETTER LXXXVI. — Page 389.

Journey to Palermo—Agricultural remarks—Spring of Sicily—Proſpects, ſcenery and geography—The beautiful plain of Brolo—Rivers, towns, and mountains—Santa Agatha, San Stefano, Cefalu, Termini, and their trade, products and fiſheries—Hiſtorical traces of Himera.

LETTER LXXXVII. — Page 427.

Palermo, ancient and modern—Buildings, population, government—Sciroco, heat—Arabian palaces—Diſcovery of valuable manuſcripts—Livy—The academy, library, coins, botanical garden—The Encyclopédie corrected.

LETTER LXXXVIII. — Page 445.

Journey to Trapani—The iſland of Uſtica—Alcamo, and its noiſy inhabitants—Horace elucidated—The ruins of Egeſta—Duplicity of the Aceſtæi—Fire ſignals in Sicily—The ancient temple of Venus, and

its diſſolute worſhip—San Giuliano, and inhabitants characterized—Hiſtorical anecdotes of Trapani.

LETTER LXXXIX. — Page 473.

Journey to Girgenti—The iſland of Pantaleone or the ancient Motya—Traces of Lilybæum—Mazara—Pantellaria, a remarkable iſland—Caſtellvetrano—The dwarf palm, and parſley—Selinus and its cumbrous ruins—Valour of the Selinuntii—The graſshopper—Sciacca, and oppreſſions of the corn trade—San Calogero and Dædalus—Monte Allegro—Siculiana—Girgenti, with its remarkable granaries.

LETTER XC. — Page 497.

The relation between fable and hiſtory—Hiſtorical traces of Agrigentum, its luxury, population, and power, its remarkable ruins and grand aſpect—The Canon Spoto—The giant fennel.

TRAVELS

OF

COUNT STOLBERG.

LETTER LXIV.

Naples, 21ſt February 1792.

THE royal palace of *Capo di Monte* is built on a height, very near to the city, and on the north ſide. The architect did not diſcover that the foundation on which it ſtood was hollow, till it was finiſhed; and this foundation, which was rectified after it was built, coſt more than the grand building itſelf. It was intended as the reſidence of the King; and it is viſited for the ſake of the gallery.

This gallery contains many pictures: but, were thoſe only preſerved which are really beautiful, the very numerous collection, con-

ſifting of fifteen hundred, would be reduced to one hundred. Heſiod ſays, Νηπιοι δε ἰσασιν ὁσῳ πλεον ἡμισυ παντος: "Too few know how "much more the half is than the whole."

Were this maxim applied to moſt galleries, we ſhould frequently diſcover that the tenth, inſtead of the half, nay the twentieth part, is more than the whole: particularly in many of the galleries of Germany.

I thought the following pictures remarkably beautiful.

A Holy Family; by Raphael. There is one which much reſembles it in the Vatican gallery, and which is affirmed to be the original. I ſuppoſe it is ſo: but they are ſo very like each other that, if the picture here be a copy, Raphael himſelf muſt have had ſome concern in it.

A Magdalen; by Guercino.

The portrait of a Monk; by Leonardo da Vinci.

Sketches; by Michael Angelo: for his great picture of the Laſt Judgment, in the chapel of Pope Sixtus in Rome. Theſe fine ſketches are in excellent preſervation.

A portrait of Pope Paul the Third; by Titian.

The

The ſame Pope, between two of his nephews, and one of his natural ſons, whom he made Duke of Parma, at a little diſtance. He is painted as inſtructing them in the ſecrets of the politics of Rome. The picture is excellent, and was painted by Titian; not without ſome ſatirical ideas.

The famous *Danae* of Titian is, beyond compariſon, the moſt beautiful picture that I have ſeen of this maſter. The point of time choſen is the deſcent of the ſhower of gold. Cupid ſtands apart, teſtifying amazement and anger; and he appears as much ſurpriſed by this new diſcovery as he is diſpleaſed.

There are ſeveral excellent pictures here, by Schidone: among others, a young woman diſtributing bread to beggars, with a beautiful boy ſtanding by her ſide.

There is likewiſe a lovely little girl, ſitting at ſchool with a book in her hand, by the ſame painter.

In one apartment there are numerous vaſes, which are called Etruſcan, but ſhould be called Greek; for they were found in tombs that were in the ſouth of Italy, and Sicily. Thoſe of Sicily are frequently the moſt beautiful *.

I remem-

* Many were found at Nola; for which reaſon it has been

I remember ſomewhere to have read that ſimilar vaſes were found by the ſoldiers of Cæſar, and ſold in Rome at a high price. Sir William Hamilton, the Engliſh ambaſſador at Naples, poſſeſſes a large collection of ſuch vaſes. The figures with which they are ornamented have been drawn by *Mr. Tiſchbein*; a painter, who lives in Naples: engravings from which will ſoon be publiſhed. The firſt part is already engraved: but the explanations which are neceſſary to the work are not yet completed.

All the figures on theſe vaſes relate either to the gods or heroes. Moſt of them are merely outlines: but they are drawn with great freedom. It appears to me exceedingly probable that they are imitations after great pictures. The publication of them, and the comparing them with baſſi relievi on ſarcophagi and marble vaſes, with coins, cameos, and intaglios,

been diſputed whether Nola was of Greek or Etruſcan origin. This town lies at the diſtance of ſome leagues from Naples. My friend, the *Marcheſe Rangoni*, from Modena, has ſent me drawings taken from vaſes, the inſcriptions under which are not in the Greek but the Etruſcan language. The Etruſcans had ſuch vaſes; but no figures drawn upon them, as on the Greek vaſes: they had only inſcriptions. Should any man of learning wiſh to examine theſe drawings, I will gladly afford every communication in my power.

as

as well as with ſtatues, may throw not only much light on antient art but on many paſſages in the antient poets. They will probably ſpeak for the ſpeechleſs marble. The forms of theſe Greek vaſes are very various, lovely, and noble.

The collection of antient gems, both cameos and intaglios, is conſiderable. Among the firſt, I ſaw one which proves that cock fighting was an amuſement of the antients as well as the moderns. By the ſide of a cock, which evidently is ſwelling with conqueſt, a Genius ſtands, holding the palm of victory. A diſſatisfied Genius ſtands beſide the conquered animal.

A cup of oriental onyx is very beautiful. Within, the onyx is wrought in cameo; and, without, it repreſents the apotheoſis of Alexander. It is round, is eight inches in diameter, and more than an inch thick; and, on the bottom part, there is the head of Meduſa.

The ſmall gems are kept and ſhewed in glaſs caſes: no juſt eſtimate can therefore be formed of them; particularly of the intaglios, to diſcover the beauties of which they muſt be held againſt the light.

Two large baſſi relievi are remarkable, becauſe of the ſubject that they repreſent.

One of them is a Venus, perſuading Helen to elope with Paris. The beautiful wife of Menelaus ſits beſide the Goddeſs, under an image of *Peitho*, or *Suada*, the Goddeſs of perſuaſion; and oppoſite to her Paris ſtands, Cupid taking him by the hand.

On the other baſſo relievo, we ſee Orpheus and Eurydice, at the unfortunate moment when he forgot his promiſe to Proſerpine, and looked round at his beloved wife. Mercury, whoſe office it is to conduct departed ſpirits, inſtantly is ſeizing her by the hand.

This collection is very rich in antient coins, of braſs, ſilver, and gold. Among the Greek coins, as well thoſe of the mother countries as of the Greek towns, in Italy and Sicily, there are many of great beauty. The collection of Roman coins is likewiſe great.

Sir William Hamilton has preſented this gallery with many of the arms, dreſſes, houſehold implements, and a flute, that were brought from the inhabitants of Otaheite, and New Zealand.

With reſpect to its churches, Naples can bear

bear no competition with moſt of the great cities of Italy. Thoſe of this city are neither of noble architecture nor are they rich in paintings.

In the church called *San Domenico Maggiore* is a fine picture, by an antient painter; Fra Bartolomeo, a monk. The child Jeſus is on the lap of the Virgin; he careſſes the little John, and Elizabeth is ſtanding behind the Baptiſt. This picture poſſeſſes much dignity and tenderneſs, though it has ſuffered by time: but perhaps nothing is wanting, except a coating of varniſh, to produce all the beauties of which it is ſuſceptible.

In the ſame church there is an Annunciation; by Titian. Although the picture has been injured by a modern hand, you nevertheleſs diſcover the great painter.

The church of the Theatines, dedicated to St. Paul, ſtands now where formerly a temple of Caſtor and Pollux ſtood. Two great Corinthian pillars of white marble, which are ſplit, ſtill ſtand before the portico of the temple; and the trunks of the ſtatues of the two heroes are walled, horizontally, in niches.

The principal church is dedicated to St. Januarius, and may more properly be called

magnificent than beautiful: or rather it has no pretenſions to beauty. The treaſury is well ſtored with church effects, and relics. Here, in a glaſs bottle, a red maſs is preſerved that is affirmed to be the blood of the Saint, but which I have not ſeen. People aſſert that this maſs twice a year, the bottle being handled by the Archbiſhop, by the aid of a miracle becomes fluid. Perhaps, it is ſo compoſed as to become fluid by the natural warmth of the hand. I muſt therefore ſuppoſe that the Archbiſhops themſelves believe in the miracle. So long a ſucceſſion of Archbiſhops, among whom there have frequently been very worthy men, cannot, with wiſdom and juſtice, be ſuppoſed to be all impoſtors.

On thoſe days when the vial is exhibited the people are in eager expectation of the miracle; and, if it be not as fluid as uſual, or but partially fluid, their anger is vented againſt the Saint.

The cupola of this church is painted by Lanfranc; and the four angles by the great Dominichino. In this church, there is a beautiful picture by Ribera, a Spaniſh painter, whom I have often mentioned to you under his more common name of Spagnuolo. The

ſubject

ſubject is the body of Chriſt, ſurrounded by the holy women.

Formerly there ſtood the coloſſal ſtatue of a horſe in bronze before this dome, which it was ſuppoſed was capable of working miracles; and round which the Neapolitans uſed to lead their horſes, when they were diſeaſed. I do not know whether this horſe, and the abſurd belief concerning it, were or were not of Pagan times: but the horſe was removed by an Archbiſhop; and a bell was made of the metal, which now hangs in the dome. The miraculous power, however, was not demoliſhed with the horſe. The zealous prelate beſtowed it on ſome monks of the order of St. Anthony, who acquired the gift of healing ſick cattle; and now to them, as formerly to the ſtatue, diſeaſed horſes, cows, mules, aſſes, and other animals are brought; and the people believe that their benediction is as efficacious now as hollow braſs uſed to be in days of yore. The head of the horſe is in the palace of the Prince Colubrano.

The univerſity, if I do not miſtake, was built by order of Philip the Fourth. It contains the antique coloſſal ſtatue of Hercules; which is ſo celebrated, under the name of the Farneſe

Farneſe Hercules. It is the work of Glycon, the Athenian. May it ever continue, as it is, the aſtoniſhment of art! Well may all who ſee it wonder at the juſtneſs of the ſymmetry, and the powerful ſwell of the muſcles.

In this ſtatue, I perfectly perceive the ſtrongeſt expreſſion of bodily power; but not of that bodily alertneſs, which always accompanies true agility: and, without agility, I cannot figure to myſelf a Hercules. Fable relates of Glycon that, looking at a ſtatue of the effeminate unmanly Adonis, he had exclaimed, I can here ſee nothing godlike. This ſtatue appears to me to have fallen into the oppoſite error. The ſon of Alcmene would not have recognized himſelf in it, though he muſt have diſcovered ſomething of the God. Fable gives him Hebe, the Goddeſs of Youth, as a bride: meaning by it that this was the union of heroic power with youthful charms, and the law is juſt which makes ſtrength the bridegroom of beauty.

Haller tells us that a beautiful body is the habitation of a beautiful ſoul; and ſuch would have been the ideal Hercules of the beſt times of Greek ſculpture. Exceſs is the ſign of the decline of art.

Here

Here is likewiſe a beautiful coloſſal ſtatue of Flora; which, as I hear, is ſuppoſed to be the work of the great ſculptor Policletus of Sicyon: but I am unacquainted with any Goddeſs, among the Greeks, that was the ſame as that which the Romans worſhipped by the name of Flora.

Pan, inſtructing the youthful Apollo to play on the flute, is a fine antique group.

The King intends to make this building his muſeum; and here all the beauties of nature and art, which are at preſent ſcattered, though the greateſt part of them are in Capo di Monte and in Portici, are to be collected.

Many beautiful antiques are at preſent in the manufacture of porcelain: among others, the following.

Two Slaves, the heads and hands of which are of black baſaltes, and their draperies and Phrygian bonnets are of variegated African marble. They are both of the ſame ſize, both are in the act of riſing, kneeling on one knee, and both bear ſomething on the head, which ſeems intended to aſſiſt them in carrying burthens.

Probably, theſe two ſtatues were intended to ſupport the lintel of a door. Male ſtatues of

of this kind were called, by the antients, *Telamones;* and the female, which were deſtined to the ſame uſes, *Caryatides.*

An Agrippina, ſitting. The chair is ſupported by a ſtrong pillar; and probably the antients had chairs which were placed upon ſimilar pillars. Such indeed are ſtill occaſionally found in Italy.

A beautiful head, which is called a *Mithridates*, but which I rather ſuppoſe to be an Indian Bacchus.

A Venus, of that kind which the antients called καλλιπυγος, and which is very excellent. The head and breaſt are by a modern artiſt: but the additions however are better than we generally find.

A bronze ſtatue, of Mercury, of extraordinary beauty. Thus muſt the meſſenger of the Gods have been formed. Thus handſome, thus artful, muſt the ſly knave have been, of whom Homer has given us a deſcription, in his hymn.

A coloſſal head of Vitellius, which is a maſter piece of phyſiognomy. His voluptuous, little, laughing, bald head inclines forward, upon his fat neck, with a kind of ſmile, that neither could denote good to himſelf nor

others,

others. His mouth, though it grins, is half closed. Impotent suspicion peeps out of hollow laughing eyes. So must the man himself have looked, and so must he have looked at others, when, by his courtly arts, he knew how to preserve himself in the days of Caligula, Claudius, and Nero. Such was the man who perhaps was too weak to refuse a request, but who was cruel and wicked enough to present a cup of poison to one whom he called his friend, under the treacherous pretext that it was a cooling draught, to relieve his fever. This head did not hang so far forward, when the half naked Vitellius was dragged through the city with a dagger held under his chin, before he was put to death, and the corpulent body hauled by a hook through the Tiber.

Dignity, force, integrity, courage, and benevolence, beam from the head of a Marcus Junius Brutus. Thus tempered, thus harmonious, must his countenance have been: so that the eyes of men, who knew not how to honour and love his actions, when they beheld it, could not but be charmed. You who can run and write, and you who can run and read, behold with how firm and free a hand nature delineates her favourites!

The

The great maſter, who out of marble knew to figure to himſelf a Homer, was acquainted with the features, could trace the form, and imagine the ſoul of the poet. I ſpeak of the famous Farneſe head of Homer. Mild benevolence, heroic force, the very inebriety of love and dignified wiſdom, mingle together in the harmoniſed countenance of the immortal Ionic ſongſter.

LETTER LXV.

Naples, 25th February 1791.

NOT ſufficiently ſatisfied with our journey on the 15th to Pozzuoli, Baiæ, Cumæ, and the places before mentioned, in which we had left many objects unnoticed, we determined once more to reviſit them.

We ſet off early, and paſſed through Pozzuoli to Solfatara: which is the name of a plain that lies to the eaſt of the city, is tolerably elevated, and ſurrounded by hills that connect with each other.

There

There is no doubt but there was formerly a volcano here. The ground is ſtill entirely volcanic: a hot ſmoke aſcends out of numerous cavities, that are to be found both on the plain and the ſurrounding hills. The places where theſe vapours riſe are in part ſulphurous, in part abound in alum, and in part with vitriol: which three materials appear to be engendered where the ſmoke aſcends. The ſulphur predominates, and fills the whole place with its powerful ſtench.

A little building has been erected, which forms a kind of alembic; from which the ſmoke deſcends in water, and which, like our ſulphurous ſprings, is beneficial in many diſeaſes: particularly the rheumatiſm. The ſmoke riſing from many of the cavities is even poſſeſſed of this virtue.

The ground is ſo hollow that a large ſtone, let fall through a hole not more than a foot deep, occaſions a ſound that rumbles along through a conſiderable ſpace. It is probable that the humid ſituation of the hollow earth, conſumed by inward fires, may in time make a lake of this plain; which has formerly been a volcano. Such appears to me to have been the antient hiſtory of the lake of Avernus,

the lake of Albanus, the mirror of Diana near Nemi, and of others. I have frequently, while travelling in Switzerland, and particularly in Italy, regretted my ignorance of natural hiſtory. Nature here may be ſeen in her laboratory. Uninformed as I am, it ſtill was very intereſting to me to remark the cryſtallized flower of ſulphur, alum, and vitriol, which ſhe elſewhere produces in her ſecret chambers, here as it may be ſaid wrought in open day by her own hand.

The earth of the plain chiefly conſiſts of a kind of clay. There are many ſtumps of cheſnut trees here, which the people in theſe environs will not ſuffer to grow, but hew them down from time to time. Whether they fear that their growth will change the nature of the place, and the profits they derive from ſulphur, alum, and vitriol be thereby injured, or whether this fear have any good foundation, is more than I know: but cheſnut trees appear to delight in volcanic diſtricts. Monte Nuovo is covered with them; and prodigious trees of this ſpecies are known to inhabit the lower region of Ætna.

This muſt have been the field of battle, between Hercules and the Giants. The antients

tients called these places the *Campi Phlegræi*, or the burning plains; and Solfatara they named the *Forum* of Vulcan.

We saw the immense ruins of the antient amphitheatre, at Pozzuoli; which, as far as I could measure them with my eye, scarcely seemed less than those of Capua. Here likewise there are the remains of *thermæ*.

From this, we proceeded to the Lucrine lake, which must have suffered much by the great revolutions that have happened in the globe. Suetonius expressly tells us * that a haven was constructed here, under Augustus, by admitting the sea into the Lucrine lake, and through this into the lake of Avernus. The small dam, which separates the Lucrine lake from the sea, and which was ascribed to Hercules, is even at present cut through: but the sand of the sea fills up this canal.

The only remaining mark of the union between these lakes is that on the side of the Lucrine lake: the high shores of Avernus are cut through, to a considerable breadth. Augustus probably imagined he was labouring for eternity, when he, or rather when Agrippa, caused this haven to be built. We might almost

* In Vita Oct. c. 16.

affirm that Horace had a foreknowledge of the fate of this work. In his epiſtle to the Piſos, ſpeaking of the changes which happen in languages, he ſays,

Debemur morti nos, noſtraque : ſive receptus
Terra Neptunus claſſes Aquilonibus arcet,
Regis opus ; ſterili ſve diu palus, aptaque remis,
Vicinas urbes alit, et grave ſentit aratrum ;
Seu curſum mutavit iniquum frugibus amnis,
Doctus iter melius ; mortalia facta peribunt :
Nedum ſermonum ſtet honos et gratia vivax.*

Hor. Ars Poet. 63—69.

We and our nobleſt works to fate muſt yield,
Even Cæſar's mole, which royal pride might build,
Where Neptune far into the land extends,
And from the raging North our fleets defends ;
That barren marſh, whoſe cultivated plain
Now gives the neighbouring towns its various grain;
Tiber, who taught a better current yields
To Cæſar's power, nor deluges our fields ;

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* By the word *palus* the Pontine marſh is meant. Probably, time had ſomething injured the canal, which had been dug by Appius Claudius. I ſay ſomething injured, becauſe, in the time of the third triumvirate, Horace had navigated this canal ; and this was previous to the work of Auguſtus, of which the poet here ſpeaks. Auguſtus alſo cleared and widened the bed of the Tiber, which had been filled up with the rubbiſh of decayed buildings. Suet. Vita Oct. cap. 30.

All

All theſe muſt periſh: and ſhall words preſume
To hold their honours, and immortal bloom?

FRANCIS.

This haven is very poetically deſcribed by Virgil, in his charming praiſe of Italy.

An memorem portus, Lucrinoque addita clauſtra,
Atque indignatum magnis ſtridoribus æquor,
Julia qua ponto longe ſonat unda refuſo,
Tyrrhenuſque fretis immittitur æſtus Avernis?

VIRG. Geo. ii. ver. 161.

Or ſhall I praiſe thy ports, or mention make
Of the vaſt mound that binds the Lucrine lake,
Or the diſdainful ſea, that, ſhut from thence,
Roars round the ſtructure, and invades the fence,
There where ſecure the Julian waters glide,
Or when Avernus' jaws admit the Tyrrhene tide?

DRYDEN, v. 221.

The water of the Lucrine lake is brackiſh, and full of a ſpecies of heart muſcle, which is not bad eating. Yet it can ſcarcely be ſuppoſed one of thoſe kind of muſcles which the lake formerly bred; and which Horace, in more than one paſſage, calls the dainty morſel of the Romans *. The name of this firſt was *peloris*. Whether the lake has any ſubterranean communication with the ſea, whether

* Epod. od. ii. 49; and Serm. II. ſat. iv. 32.

the decaying canal be at times overflowed by it, or whether this canal be occaſionally cleared by the inhabitants, is more than I can ſay. I conjecture that there is a ſubterranean intercourſe, that the ſand is carried off, and that it is occaſionally repaired by the hand of man.

Cluverius, who of all the travellers into theſe countries may beſt be depended upon, tells us that traces of the Julian haven may be ſeen in the ſea, at the foot of the Monte Nuovo. I have not time to make the enquiry myſelf.

The Sibyl's grotto, as it is called, is near the lake of Avernus. We entered it with torches, and found a dark ſmall paſſage at the ſide of this long cavern, in the middle of which much water was collected. Our conductors were the people of the place, who are accuſtomed to act as guides; and the cavern no doubt is the ſame through which Virgil conducts his hero, to the abode of Pluto. The Sibyl inhabited a cavern near Cumæ; which has given riſe to the falſe opinion, and occaſioned the good people to call this cavern the grotto of the Sibyl: ſo that they can amply deſcribe the manner and the place of her abode; like an old chamberlain, who, in the

abſence of his lord, imagines he does him honour by diſplaying the apartments of his caſtles to ſtrangers. Virgil founded his beautiful fiction of the Sibyl partly on tradition, and partly on hiſtory. Perhaps we may here diſcover a natural allegory: it may be ſaid that the decrepid propheteſs lived at Cumæ, that ſhe might reſide amidſt the annals of nature. How intereſting are theſe annals in this country! Who ſhall collect the ſcattered leaves?

We breakfaſted in a round temple, on the eaſt ſide of the lake of Avernus, which was called the temple of Apollo. Had we been received by Lucullus in his celebrated hall of Apollo, we ſcarcely could have eaten with a better appetite. According to ſome, this temple was dedicated to Proſerpine. It was a large rotunda, which appertained to *thermæ*. The orange and the fig tree now grow in the temple.

From this, we returned to the Lucrine lake, and proceeded to the end of the dam which is aſcribed to Hercules. The ſhore of the ſea, here on the eaſtern ſide, is very high; and there are ruins which probably belonged to a palace of Nero. Under the hill there are warm

vapour baths; and there is a ſmall paſſage that leads to a hot well, the heat of which, and the hot exhalations we found, deterred us from paying it a viſit. A man ſtripped himſelf to the waiſt, and went in with eggs; which he brought out, in two minutes, ſufficiently boiled: though, over the kitchen fire, they take five minutes to be well done. So much quicker is the ſtrong heat produced by the continually boiling and rarefied waters of Nature.

Here we had a view of the whole bay of Naples, and the iſlands of Capri and Niſida. Nero, from the height on which his villa was built, muſt have had a proſpect to the other ſide of the bay of Gaeta, and have overlooked the iſlands of Iſchia and Procida, and the Avernian and Lucrine lakes.

The warm baths, which were called the Thermæ of Nero, muſt have been long in uſe; and were found to have a very healing power. There is an old tradition that they were deſtroyed, three or four hundred years ago, by the phyſicians of Salerno; who were angry that the fountains of nature ſhould render their art uſeleſs: and that theſe phyſicians periſhed by ſea, on their return, near Capri.

We

We again went up and viewed the great ruins of an antient temple at Pozzuoli; which, by ſome, was ſuppoſed to be a temple of Jupiter Serapis: but the opinion of thoſe who maintain it to be a temple built by Domitian, to the Nymphs, appears to me the moſt probable. Three large Corinthian pillars are ſtill entire. Facing theſe, we ſtill find the foundation of a circular building; upon which, after the manner of many antient temples, there was an outward altar under a cupola ſupported by pillars. The three principal pillars ſtand there as a remarkable monument of the great revolutions of nature, to which theſe places have been ſubject. About ten ells above the ground, they are perforated by a kind of ſea inſect; which has the power of perforating ſtone, and which from its form is called *Mitylus lithophagus*, or Sea-date.

Behind the temple, there are remains of baths; and canals, through which hot water was conducted from Solfatara. Probably they have been laid in ruins by earthquakes.

Theſe countries were covered with buildings by the Romans, and particularly the Emperors, at an enormous expence; as if in defiance of the terrors of nature. Are we

not here reminded of the antient fiction of the giants, who daringly fought, on flaming fields, againſt the potent Hercules?

LETTER LXVI.

Naples, 29th February 1792.

DURING the 25th and 26th, the ſky being very clear, there was a continual and generally a thick white ſmoke, which aſcended from Veſuvius; but this kind of ſmoke does not conſtantly portend an inflammable eruption. This great and frequently deſolating phenomenon of nature is generally preceded by interrupted, but ſudden exhalations of a black and humid kind, and mixed with aſhes, forming a thick and gloomy cloud. We ſaw ſomething like this on the evening of the 26th. That we might make a circuit and aſcend to the mouth of the volcano, if there ſhould happen to be an eruption, the day before yeſterday we went to Portici.

The ſuburbs of Naples and its large villages, added

added to Portici, give this city, great as it is without them, a ſtill more conſiderable extent.

At this end of the city the place is ſhewn where the noble young Conradin was beheaded; and near the ſame place is the houſe in which Maſaniello was put to death: the bold young fiſherman, who, in the middle of the 17th century, had nearly delivered Naples from the yoke of Spain. The river of *Magdalena*, or of *Sebetho*, empties itſelf into the ſea near Naples. This ſmall ſtream, or rather this rivulet, is the *Sebethus* of the antients.

Cluverius has very juſtly remarked that the village of *San Giovanni di Tiduccio* muſt be built on the place where, in reality, Virgil's tomb ſtood; of which now no traces are to be found, and which muſt very early have been deſtroyed; for in the time of St. Jerome, the place on the Poſilipo, which is now ſuppoſed to be his tomb, was then ſuppoſed to be the ſame.

Portici is charmingly ſituated between Mount Veſuvius and the ſea; by the waters of which it is bathed. The air is healthy, and the fertility of its ſoil is celebrated.

All the way as we went, we ſaw black vapours riſing from the crater of Veſuvius. We hired

hired aſſes at Portici; and the beginning of our ride was among high trees, round which the vine twined itſelf, and afterward through cheſnut groves. We frequently heard the ſubterranean rumbling of the mountain, which reſembled the diſtant diſcharge of artillery; and, as often as we diſtinguiſhed theſe noiſes, we looked toward the top, and remarked that thick black clouds of ſmoke, accompanied with a diſcharge of ſtones, was emitted from the crater.

Tolerably high up the mountain, yet a full league and a half from the ſummit of the pyramid which is properly called Veſuvius, there is a hermit, who lives on a hill, by its ſide, which is called Somma. This Somma is a great ruin of nature; and of the antient Veſuvius. It has crumbled away to the half of its height, and evidently diſcovers itſelf at the top to have been a volcano. In like manner the preſent Veſuvius roſe, above ſeventeen hundred years ago. Like *Monte Nuovo*, which was ſuddenly thrown up in the year 1538 by an earthquake, it has the form of a ſugar loaf, with a broad baſe, the top of which is cut off, and is hollow to a great depth; like the crater of a volcano.

The

The hermit warned us of approaching danger, and I left my ſon with him: though I did not ſo much fear the ſtones, that were thrown up, as the difficulty of the aſcent. However, I ſaw it was very neceſſary for us to take care how we approached too near to theſe dangerous ſhowers. The ſtones were caſt with ſuch violence, out of the hollow mountain, that the velocity of their fall was not to be compared to the velocity of their aſcent; and our eye preſently became ſo accuſtomed to this velocity that the ſtones, when they at length began to deſcend, appeared to us rather to be ſuſpended than to fall.

The aſcent up Mount Veſuvius is extremely difficult: ſometimes from the cutting droſs of the lava, on which you tread; and at others becauſe, when you mean to aſcend, you ſink deep into the aſhes. The guides leſſened the inconvenience; for they bound linen round their bodies, by which we held faſt and were aided by their ſtrength: ſtill however the difficulty was very great.

The places you paſs are terrifying. The whole ground is uneven, and ſtrewed over with ſtones, prodigious pieces of *ſcoria*, or deep pits of aſhes; which have all been thrown from

from the mountain. The projecting parts of the mountain frequently conceal the ſmoky ſummit, from thoſe who are aſcending; and you are repeatedly inclined to deſpair of arriving at your journey's end, while at every ſtep when you mean to go forward, you ſink back and imagine you ſhall be ſwallowed up in the aſhes. You are often obliged to ſtand ſtill with wearineſs, or ſit down on the cutting droſs; and the ſenſe of wearineſs is increaſed by the ſurrounding aſpect of deſolation: but you turn your eye backward, and, looking over and beyond theſe deſert places, are revived by the proſpect of the ſea till you forget the difficulty.

The emiſſions from the flaming mountain were ſo violent that it was impoſſible, at that time, to reach the ſummit; and the diſappointment was welcome to us, for it was a ſpectacle which was much more impreſſive than that of looking down into its mouth would have been, had all been calm.

We aſcended the mountain to a huge crag of rock; which, in one of its antient eruptions, had been projected out of the crater. It is at the diſtance of one third of the whole aſcent from the ſummit; and thus great was

the

the ſpace to which this rock had been whirled. Here we ſat, or rather laid ourſelves down. Here we beheld and heard the mountain inceſſantly in labour. Whenever the rumbling din became louder, a thundering ſhower of ſtones continually followed. I cannot compare this ſubterranean uproar to any thing better than to the noiſe of cannon at ſea; and it was as quick in ſucceſſion, as the diſcharge of artillery in ſuch a combat:

Wo ſchiff an ſchiff ſich donnernd legt *;

as Klopſtock ſays.

The rock on which we ſat ſhook very ſenſibly, at each diſcharge of the mountain. The ſucceſſive ſhowers of aſhes increaſed in blackneſs, and were always accompanied with ſtones. Theſe, when they fell to the ground, rolled down over the droſs, with a noiſe reſembling hail againſt a glaſs window. At intervals, when the din of the mountain and the ſhowering of ſtones had ceaſed, we heard a fearful gurgling, as of boiling water. Large droſs, that had been thrown into the air, fell rolling down, glowing with heat; and came ſo near us that my ſervant took up a piece

* When ſhip to ſhip in thunder ſpeaks.

between

between two ſtones, which ſerved him as a pair of tongs. I employed it, as I would have done a chafing diſh, to warm me; for the wind blew cold and ſharp. It was ſo hot that Jacobi kindled his tobacco pipe with it; and it was not quite cold in the evening, when we ſhewed it to my wife: though it was but about as large as a cannon ball, of eight pounds weight.

A yellow ſmoke, inſtead of the black ſhower, occaſionally roſe from the throat of the mountain; and we ſaw the reflection of ſubterranean flames tremble among the riſing pillars of ſmoke; ſtrong guſts of which were likewiſe impelled out of many little mouths, round the crater.

Thus we ſat upon our trembling rock, which is itſelf a prodigious monument of the power of the fire-emitting mountain, and enjoyed one of the grandeſt ſpectacles of nature. The contemplation of its preſent eruption was made the more impreſſive by ſeeing ourſelves ſurrounded with ſtones, prodigious maſſes of droſs, *ſcoria*, and deep aſhes; which teſtified the wonders of its former eruptions. Not far from us was a crater which burſt forth laſt year. As annals of nature, theſe marks of deſolation

deſolation produce their effect: but yet how much more effectual was the preſence of the ſcene we were contemplating!

Whenever for a moment we turned from the terrible proſpect of the ſummit of Veſuvius, we beheld on the oppoſite ſide the delightful bays of Naples and of Gaeta, with their lordly coaſts and iſlands.

We now deſcended the troubled craggy height; which, ſteep as it is, is leſs difficult to deſcend than to mount: though it would be equally impoſſible either to go up it or down it, were it not for the foot-hold which the aſhes afford. We made a good and agreeable breakfaſt with the hermit, who gave us a very pleaſant taſted red wine; which is the growth of the mountain, and is called *lacrima*, or tears.

The ſmoke became yellow at the approach of night; and, on our return to Portici, we then ſaw it riſe of a flame colour.

At Portici, we took torches, and viſited the theatre of the antient *Heraclea:* or, as the Romans called it, *Herculaneum.*

This Greek town, the foundation of which is aſcribed by ſome authors to Hercules, was entirely

entirely buried and deſtroyed by aſhes and lava, during the great eruption of Veſuvius, in the year 79 after the birth of Chriſt, and in the firſt year of the reign of Titus.

A part of the ſeats of the antient theatre were brought up, in the year 1713, by a farmer who was ſinking a well. Emanuel, Prince of Elbeuf, of the houſe of Lorraine, who was building in Portici, purchaſed the right of the farmers of digging farther; and a ſtatue of Hercules was preſently diſcovered, and afterward one of Cleopatra, with others. At length, they came to a circular temple, which contained four-and-twenty alabaſter pillars; and as many ſtatues, that were all ſent to Vienna by Prince Eugene of Savoy.

The proceedings of the Prince of Elbeuf were interrupted by the Spaniſh government. In the year 1736, Don Carlos, King of Naples, the father of the preſent King, undertook to build a palace in Portici; and he purchaſed the houſe and the land of the Prince of Elbeuf, and the antient town was diſcovered at the depth of eighty feet. The bed of the river was found which ran through the town; as likewiſe were the temple of Jupiter, with his

ſtatue

ſtatue of gold, the theatre, and two large equeſtrian ſtatues of the two Balbi: father and ſon.

So great was the love of the Greeks for ſpectacles, that the theatre of this town, which belonged to the little ſtates of *Magna Græcia*, was more capacious than the magnificent theatre of *San Carlo* in Naples; which is one of the largeſt, and grandeſt, in Europe. Yet the ſtage, though it was ſixty feet in length, was only eighteen in breadth. The antients were in leſs need of a capacious ſtage than we are: partly becauſe the ſcene was never changed; and partly becauſe they did not introduce ſo many characters, and perſons, as the modern poets.

The firſt known eruption of Veſuvius, which happened in the year 79, was that in which the great naturaliſt, Pliny, periſhed. Herculaneum and Pompeii were both buried under its aſhes; and the flaming lava took its courſe through both theſe towns.

The people dare not leave the cavities, dug to come at Herculaneum, empty; becauſe Portici, and the village of Reſina, are built immediately over the buried place. It was diſcovered that the ſtreets were ſtraight; and that

on each ſide there was a raiſed pavement for foot paſſengers, which are but ſeldom found even in the great and elegant cities of modern Europe.

After having taken out many remarkable articles, of houſehold furniture, arms, coins, and manuſcripts rolled up, which have been preſerved in Portici, the opening was again cloſed. I hope to be able to ſend you ſome account of the things thus diſcovered, which are very intereſting to the lover of antiquity, as ſoon as I have viſited the muſeum of Portici; previous to which I mean to go to Pompeii.

In the evening of the day before yeſterday, I took my wife to a part of the city behind the *Caſtello del Ovo;* where you ſtand by the ſea ſide, and have a full view of Mount Veſuvius. Clear flames roſe out of the mountain; and the red pillars of ſmoke were reflected in the ſea.

Early yeſterday, I accompanied her to Solfatara; for ſhe did not go with us, when we ſaw it on the 25th. And now, inſtead of the many ſmoking mouths of this ſunken volcano, a thin vapour roſe only from three apertures. It is probable that there is a ſubterranean communication

munication between Solfatara and Veſuvius; though they are three German miles from each other. But what are three German miles? It is ſuppoſed that Ætna, the volcanos of the Lipari Iſlands, and Veſuvius, have all a communication with each other. What is ſtill more, in the year 1783, the very ſame in which the earthquake happened in Calabria, and when a part of Sicily was ſo fearfully ſhaken, did not the earth open in Iceland, and ſtream forth flaming fire, which continued to burn for months? And this dreadful viſitation happened in an iſland ſo near the pole! I cannot indeed ſatisfactorily prove the ſubterranean connection, from theſe appearances, between the *Icelandic Hecla* and the volcanoes of the ſouth. A great, and to us unknown, general cauſe may have acted in both places at once: but I think this cauſe is not yet diſcovered; and the hypotheſis of a ſubterranean connection ought not to be treated as abſurd, till it is proved that there is ſome other which is more probable.

The hypotheſes of our naturaliſts, and metaphyſicians, too often reſemble the hollow and undermined earth: with a kind of volcanic ſpirit they riſe and are as quickly bu-

ried. Many a *Monte Nuovo* is lifted up, but to ſink and be no more remembered. Under the ſtatue of the Egyptian Iſis, the Goddeſs of Nature, was the following inſcription: "I "am what I was: let no man raiſe the veil "that covers me."

Yeſterday evening, we beheld the flaming cataracts of lava burſt forth. The reflection produced by the heat glowed in the waves of the ſea: the moon appeared to grow paler in preſence of the ſtreaming fire. How fortunate were we to be here at this time! I pity thoſe ſtrangers who only left this city a few days ago, which now every night enjoys ſo grand a ſpectacle of nature.

I am juſt returned from the ſea ſide, where the proſpect this evening was more than ever beautiful. The mountain has opened another mouth, on the ſouth weſt ſide; not far from the great crater on the ſummit. At one moment, we beheld the fiery ſtream as you behold a diſtant waterfall, without being able to diſcover if it have any motion; and, at another, we had a full view of the flaming lava. From time to time the fire very clearly roſe out of the ſummit; and was followed by flames, burſting from the new aperture.

Although

Although hiſtory gives no information of any eruption of Mount Veſuvius more early than the year 79, yet the antients formed ſome conjectures concerning its volcanic qualities. Diodorus tells us that "Hercules came "likewiſe to the country of Cumæ; where, "according to many ſtories, the people were "called giants: becauſe of their extraordinary "ſtrength, and ſavage manners. Theſe coun-"tries have been called *Phlegræan*, or in-"flamed, from the hill which formerly emit-"ted a great quantity of fire, like Ætna. The "place is now called Veſuvius; and, from "many traces, we may gather that it muſt "have burnt in antient times *."

National pride induced the Sicilian to call Mount Veſuvius a hill; and indeed, conſiderable as it is, yet compared with Ætna, it is properly a hill.

Strabo likewiſe tells us, in his fifth book, that Veſuvius muſt have been a mountain that threw out fire; which it had then only ceaſed to do from the want of inflammatory matter.

A paſſage in Lucretius, who lived toward the end of the republic, does not prove what many, who have written concerning Mount

* Diod. l. iv. vol. i. p. 267. ed. Weſſel.

Veſuvius, have ſuppoſed it proved. The poet ſpoke of hot ſprings; and what he has called Veſuvius was only an epithet, to point out their place.

Diodorus and Strabo, the contemporaries of Auguſtus, wrote only a few years later than Lucretius; and Virgil, like himſelf, mentions Veſuvius only to denote the country of which he was ſpeaking.

We cannot but be ſurpriſed that the elder Pliny, who wrote his immortal natural hiſtory in the time of Veſpaſian, gives us no account of Veſuvius. The evident tokens of qualities ſimilar to thoſe of Mount Ætna, which qualities had been remarked by preceding authors, could not have eſcaped his enquiring mind.

His firſt obſervations on Mount Veſuvius were thoſe that coſt him his life.

The two letters, which the younger Pliny wrote, one-and-twenty years after this accident, to his friend Tacitus the hiſtorian, are exceedingly intereſting. They give a circumſtantial account of the death of his uncle, the elder Pliny: who, with a noble courage and a truly philoſophic freedom of mind, ſailed from Miſenum, where he was the commander of the fleet, to Pompeii, that he might remark the terrible

terrible phenomenon, and was ſuffocated by the ſmoke on his aſcent.

The younger Pliny remained behind, with his mother; who was a ſiſter of the naturaliſt, and who firſt ſhewed her brother the aſcending ſmoke, which he ſuppoſed to be a cloud. The ſmoke aroſe in the form of the pine tree*: becauſe, as the younger Pliny remarks, it had firſt aſcended through the clear atmoſphere of the mountain, and then ſunk under its own weight, and extended itſelf.

From this relation, as well as from that of Dion Caſſius, we learn how dreadfully fearful the progreſſive appearances of nature were: ſo that the terrified people waited, in expectation of the end of the world.

This eruption began with ſo violent a diſcharge of aſhes that three towns, Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Stabia, were overwhelmed by the tempeſt. So unexpected was the univerſal death that the people of Pompeii were at the theatre.

* Of that ſpecies which we call the Italian pine, and which they name *Pino*; a tree, the beauty of which greatly exceeds that of our pine. It has the form of an umbrella; in which form the ſmoke riſes, when the air is calm: and, in order to underſtand the relation of Pliny, we muſt figure to ourſelves the form of this tree.

This guſt of aſhes was occaſioned by the falling of that part of Veſuvius which is now called *Monte Somma*. The falling in is denoted by the figure of *Monte Somma*; which was the Veſuvius of the antients, but which was more frequently called *Veſevus* by the Romans. The proper Veſuvius of the preſent day, which about half way up joins Mount Somma, formed itſelf into a pyramid there where it riſes above Somma, and roſe in proportion as the antient *Veſevus* fell in. In the ſame manner *Monte Nuovo*, in the year 1538, roſe in a ſingle night.

Ever ſince the year 79, Veſuvius has continued to ſmoke; and, from time to time, to ſend forth eruptions. About thirty of theſe eruptions have been diſtinguiſhed from the reſt, either by the length of their duration or their violence. The mountain ſends forth flames almoſt every year, generally about the beginning of Autumn; and ſometimes, twice a-year.

In the year 1631, a great part of the mountain fell in.

The phenomena of the year 1767 were terrific: the whole country was long kept in dread, by the ſubterranean thunder of the mountain;

mountain; and at laſt it broke out, emitting thick ſmoke and ſhowers of fire, mingled with ſtones and aſhes. The lava firſt flowed ſlowly toward *Reſina;* and a part of heaven was benighted, on the 19th of October, by the black clouds of ſmoke and aſhes that were poured forth. On the 20th, a broad ſtream of lava haſtily burſt forth; and, in an hour's time, made a progreſs of ſeven Italian miles. Its depth was eſtimated at ſixty fathoms. At midnight, the mountain burned horribly; and it thundered at intervals like the diſcharge of cannon. It poured out a new river of fire; which ruſhed toward the valley, that lies between Veſuvius Proper and the height of *San Salvadore*, on which the hermitage ſtands. A part of the inhabitants of Portici accompanied the flight of the King to Naples. On the 23d, the mountain again began to bellow; and, after a ſhort pauſe, the lava broke out more dreadful than before, and the mountain during three hours diſcharged fire and aſhes. The aſhes were blown as far as Gaeta; which lies five German miles diſtant over the ſea. The exploſion ended on the 26th; but the earth long afterward continued to be occaſionally ſhaken.

After

After the eruption of lava in the year 1779, which began on the 27th of Auguſt, the fruit trees a ſecond time put forth their buds, and a ſecond time actually produced ſmall but well taſted fruit, in the beginning of the winter.

The countries in the neighbourhood of volcanoes are always found to be fertile; which is either occaſioned by the heat of the earth, or by the fiery exhalations that are emitted. In the gardens near Pozzuoli, the ſoil of which is extraordinarily warm becauſe of the vicinity of Solfatara and its hot ſprings, vegetables are produced and the fruits ripen a fortnight ſooner than at Naples: but the fruits, on account of this heat, are leſs delicious; and the vegetables leſs excellent.

With reſpect to the ſecond fruits that were produced in the year 1779, I remember that, in the latter part of the autumn of the ſame year, as I was travelling from Germany to Denmark, I ſaw the wild cheſnut tree a ſecond time in bloom in both countries: nay, in Denmark, toward the middle of November, at a ſeaſon when in general the oak had ſhed its leaves, in theſe countries.

This whole year was remarkable, in the North. On the 13th of March, in the *Charlottenburg*,

Iottenburg, now the botanic, garden at Copenhagen, I ſaw an apricot tree in the open air in full bloom. Thoſe ſecret cauſes, which produced a new bloom in autumn as well even in Denmark as in Germany, acting in milder climates with no leſs effect, muſt have repeated the gifts of ſummer and of autumn in the winter of the ſouth of Italy. Both in theſe countries and in the north, people were fearful that nature would have recruited her powers by extreme frugality, in the following year: but the kind and ſmiling mother, in 1780, ſcattered her bleſſings from her horn of plenty, over her anxious, fearful, and agitated children.

LETTER LXVII.

Naples, 3d March 1792.

YESTERDAY evening, I and Erneſt, with Nicolovius and Jacobi, took a boat; and once more proceeded to viſit Mount Veſuvius.

The

The wiſhed-for night approached, and we beheld the river of fire at a diſtance; and likewiſe its reflection in the ſea. We again took aſſes at Portici, and rode as before to the two hermits, as they are called, who live in the hermitage of *San Salvadore*, ſituated on a conſiderable height of the mountain, and lying between the Somma and the proper Veſuvius. The employment of theſe people is to afford lodging and aid to ſtrangers.

As we travelled, we ſaw the whole ſtream of burning lava at a diſtance; and heard the noiſe of the mountain louder than when in the boat. We likewiſe beheld melancholy marks of the deſolation of the year 1779, teſtified by prodigious pieces of lava and *ſcoria*, and giving a terrific aſpect to the flouriſhing plants and vine bowers, among which they lay ſcattered.

Before we left the hermitage to continue our road, I put my ſon to bed; after which, we rode to a croſs, where the way began to be impaſſable for the animals.

I do not believe that the ſtones, which were thrown from the crater of the mountain, and the many rivulets of fire which flowed on all ſides from the principal ſtream, would have permitted

permitted us to have aſcended and examined the new mouth, that vomited forth theſe terrors. It was not far below the crater on the ſummit, which evidently had a connection with the chief gulph. Theſe pathleſs ſteep ways, which are dreadful even by day, were more dreadful by night. The now dim, now flaring light of our torches, more frequently ſhewed us the ſtone, or the huge cinder, over which we had ſtumbled, than thoſe over which we might ſtumble: like our feeble reaſon; which, Pope, in his Eſſay on Man, has ſo beautifully deſcribed:—

"What can ſhe more than tell us we are fools?"

Neither have I the ſame pliancy of limb, nor ſtrength of lungs, which ſeventeen years ago, when I was a youth, enabled me to climb the ſteepeſt paths of the Alps.

We contented ourſelves, though unwillingly, with taking a lateral direction; by which we approached the lower part of the ſtream of burning lava.

Though the way we took was leſs laborious to the lungs and the limbs than the aſcent to the ſummit would have been, yet it was very difficult; and particularly painful to the

the feet. Soon after we had paſſed the croſs, we found vegetation, which before had appeared ſickly, entirely dead. Stepping among the deep aſhes, you tread upon prodigious lumps of angular *ſcoria*; the ſharp points of which pain the more ſenſibly becauſe the preſſure of the foot frequently makes leſſer bits roll down, and wound with their deſcent. Such pieces are piled roughly over one another; having been collected by different eruptions of lava, flowing through the unequal ground, and leaving mementos of more early devaſtation.

The heat that proceeded from an aperture, which burſt forth in the month of Auguſt 1790, was inſufferable; and, though when we were there it was a year and a half ſince this eruption happened, the hot ſurface would not permit us to touch it with our hands.

We continued for about a quarter of an hour to paſs with haſty ſteps over hollow lumps of droſs, that ſtill were glowing; ſurrounded on all ſides by gulphs of fire. To have made a falſe ſtep, or to have ſtepped ſlowly, would have been equally dangerous. Should the droſs give way, the foot muſt ſink or the body be thrown off its centre, and all

our precaution would have been vain. The lava that had ruſhed headlong from the ſteep declivity, arriving at a place where there was no deſcent, collected itſelf among the cinders, and flowed but ſlowly: though ſtill the flood was flaming red. The ſtones and *ſcoria* that it had paſſed over were red hot; and one of our guides lighted the extinguiſhed torch, which he held in his hand, by a cinder of this kind.

The nature of the lavas is various, according to the materials contained in the mountain; either as they ſhall mingle with each other, or be thrown up unmingled. They are as hard as ſtone, are capable of the poliſh of marble, and of different colours. Either I miſtake or the pavement of the Roman roads moſtly conſiſts of the lava of antient volcanos, which had become extinguiſhed before the time of the Roman hiſtory, and therefore were not known as ſuch. The ſame may be ſaid of all Naples, and of the highway to Portici.

The pure melted lava does not form itſelf into waves as it flows; but, as ſoon as it is diſcharged from the throat of the mountain, the maſs which it forms is impelled downwards by ſucceſſive emiſſions. You may remember

member to have ſeen the Rhine flow in the ſame manner at Mentz. It forms no waves, but is apparently ſtill: yet the broad ſtream flows with more reſiſtleſs power from this circumſtance. Metal, melted till liquefied in a forge, may give you a tolerable idea of the lava; as well of that which flows purely, as of that which is mingled with droſs.

Whenever the mountain throws out its palpitating flames and hurls its ſtones into the air, the melted ſtream is enlivened by a new poliſh. Red hot ſtones at the ſame time roll down on every ſide. Many were rolled along by the lava, as flints are by the ſtream of the mountain. From the principal cataracts of fire inferior ones take their courſe. The mountain ceaſed to repeat its quick ſucceſſive claps of thunder, and continued to roll it durably, while the hiſſing roars of a tempeſt were heard. The clouds of ſmoke that roſe were ſo red that you would have ſuppoſed them to have been flames, had not real flames been emitted; and had they not been obſcured by the bright red of the lava.

The ſtillneſs of night reigned over theſe deſert places, and was only interrupted by ſubterranean uproar. The atmoſphere was dark:

dark: you ſcarcely could ſee the ſhady part of the mountain, that lay behind that which was illuminated by the fire. Like as poliſhed bodies, when the light is little, ſeem to collect it all to themſelves, and caſt ſurrounding objects in deeper darkneſs.

LETTER LXVIII.

Naples, 7th March 1792.

THE pleaſant lake of *Agnano* lies not far from Solfatara, and ſomething nearer than that to Naples. It is chiefly ſurrounded by high ſhores, on which the poplar and the cheſnut tree grow.

Near a part of the ſhore, at the foot of a hill, there is a cavern; which was called by the antients the cavern of Charon. It is better known at preſent by the name of *La Grotta del Cane:* the cavern of dogs; becauſe it is a common cuſtom to put a dog into the cavern, in order to convince ſtrangers of the mephitic qualities of the air. The dog preſently loſes his ſenſes,

and muſt die were he not dragged out, and, to recover him, dipped in the water of the lake.

We did not think proper to tolerate the cruelty of this experiment, and we therefore entered the cavern one after another. That we might be convinced of the effects of the air, it was neceſſary we ſhould bend: but theſe effects were not ſo ſtrong as we expected. There is a ſimilar opening in the earth near Pyrmont, which appeared to me to exhale ſtronger vapours. I muſt remark however that I viſited the German cavern in a hot ſummer's day, and this during the humid ſeaſon of ſpring; and it is probable that the effects are more ſudden and forcible in ſummer.

It is impoſſible to fire a piſtol in the grotto; for the air prevents the powder in the pan from taking fire. We had neglected to bring fire arms to make the experiment: but we ſaw the torches were extinguiſhed, when they were held in the cavern.

The hot ſulphur baths of the lake appeared to me ſtronger than the vapour of the cavern. Theſe baths are called *Stufe*, or ſtoves, *di San Germano*. They are much eſteemed for their

effects; and emit a hot vapour, the ſmoke of which is ſo fine that means muſt be taken to render it viſible. A bit of tinder is kindled, and ſuffered to ſmoke; and round this the aſcending ſulphureous vapour will become perceptible. I can only account for this effect by ſuppoſing that a part of the more groſs ſmoke of the tinder mixes with the fine vapour, and thickens it ſufficiently to render it viſible.

A rough path leads to the boiling ſprings, which are called *gli Piſciarelli*. They riſe out of the *Monte Secco*, or dry hill, and have probably ſome connection with Solfatara: for, as in that, a ſmoke exhales here, out of little apertures, which ſhews the exiſtence of ſulphur and vitriol.

Thoſe, who endeavour to find the hell of Homer and Virgil, with all its ſtreams, on earth, diſcover in the pleaſant lake of *Agnano* the river of *Cocytus;* in the *Grotta del Cane* the cavern of *Cerberus*, who was charmed to ſleep by a ſop which the Sibyl had prepared; the Styx in the hot ſprings; and, finally, that the hypotheſis may be in all things complete, in the *Stufe di San Germano*, which are viſited

by the ſick, the entrance to the ſhades of death: where, as the Roman poet ſings,

Veſtibulum ante ipſum primiſque in faucibus Orci
Luctus et ultrices poſuere cubilia Curæ:
Pallenteſque habitant Morbi, triſtiſque Senectus,
Et Metus et male ſuada Fames, ac turpis Egeſtas,
Terribiles viſu formæ! Lethumque, Laboſque;
Tum conſanguineus Lethi Sopor, et mala mentis
Gaudia; mortiferumque adverſo in limine Bellum,
Ferreique Eumenidum thalami, et Diſcordia demens
Vipereum crinem vittis innexa cruentis.

VIRG. Æn. vi. 273.

Juſt in the gate, and in the jaws of hell,
Revengeful Cares, and ſullen Sorrows dwell;
And pale Diſeaſes, and repining Age;
Want, Fear, and Famine, unreſiſted rage;
Here Toils, and Death, and Death's half-brother, Sleep,
Forms terrible to view, their ſentry keep:
With anxious Pleaſures of a guilty mind,
Deep Frauds before, and open Force behind:
The Furies' iron beds, and Strife that ſhakes
Her hiſſing treſſes, and unfolds her ſnakes.

DRYDEN, v. 384.

This beautiful paſſage of the poet has been applied to the vapour baths with much acuteneſs, but with little judgment.

I need not repeat what I have already ſaid, concerning the abſurdity of that opinion that ſuppoſes

ſuppoſes the whole empire of Death, with the Elyſian fields, which another ſun and other ſtars illumine—

——— *Solemque ſuum, ſua ſidera norunt* ———

are to be found on earth; in the lake Avernus, the vineyards of the dead ſea, and where the dead of all Baiæ were buried. I would only adviſe you to turn to the map of theſe countries, and follow the poet through all his labyrinths: I mean follow him if you can.

The lake of Avernus is very near Cumæ: but the *veſtibulum* of *Orcus* is more than a German mile diſtant.

The noble Mantuan bard, when he lived in Naples, certainly had often praiſed the lake of Agnano in fabulous ſong; and had viſited its bowers. But why compare this lovely lake to the hateful Cocytus? Why did they not diſcover, ſince they were bent on diſcovery, that which the ſagacious poet had concealed deep in earth and darkneſs?

—— *Alta terra et caligine* ——

Why, I ſay, did they not, among the groves of this lake, diſcover the fields where the ſouls of lovers ſtray; and meet in them the wan-

dering ſhade of Dido, with her freſh bleeding wounds? But they were determined to find that of which nothing but blind curioſity would have gone in ſearch.

A tolerably ſteep hill ſeparates the banks of the Agnano from the deep valley of *Aſtruni*. The proſpect from the top of this hill, as well toward the lake as the valley, is very pleaſant. It is ſurrounded by leſſer heights, and ſhaded by the oak, the prickly oak, and the cheſnut tree.

Here the wild boars, many of which we ſaw, meet with excellent paſture. The King frequently diverts himſelf with hunting in this valley; in the middle of which there is a charming lake, and a little pool that has probably been ſeparated from the lake by an earthquake.

A gentle heart enlivening calm is felt, as well on the banks of the lake of Agnano as in the whole of theſe friendly regions. No object here reminds you of the vicinity of a great city, which is inhabited by nearly half a million of people. All breathes that ſoft repoſe which many conſider as an empty ſound; but without which the few, who feel it, conſider the pleaſures that the crowd endeavour

deavour to diſcover in ſtrife and ambition as empty indeed, and frantic. Happy are they who hear the warning voice of peace and repoſe! They behold ever youthful Joy eſcaping from clamour and tears, and flying to the arms of Wiſdom; as to a tender mother, whoſe charms are concealed from the prophane. They ſhun the din and tumult of the world: but they welcome their ſympathetic friends, and lead them to their bowers of delight.

LETTER LXIX.

Naples, 10th March 1792.

ALTHOUGH on our voyage we had ſeveral times paſſed very near to the promontory of Miſenum, yet we had left it without paying it a viſit; becauſe we intended to dedicate a day to this purpoſe, having promiſed ourſelves very delightful views from its charming ſituation. Accordingly, we yeſterday took boat, to fulfill our intentions.

The waves ran high, the wind was againſt us, and our boatmen coaſted along the Poſilipo: the high and projecting cape of which divides the bay of Naples, that extends from the promontory of Maſſa, formerly the promontory of Minerva, to that of Miſenum.

The appearance of the Poſilipo is various and delightful; and we continued our route through the ſmall ſtrait, by which it is ſeparated from the iſland of Niſida. We then ſteered along the winding coaſt of Pozzuoli and Baiæ, and navigated the paſſage cut in the rock through the leſſer cape; which, with the long promontory of Miſenum, had formed the haven where, in the time of Auguſtus, a great part of the Roman fleet lay. Probably, Agrippa cut through theſe rocks, when he built the haven, to afford ſmall veſſels a quick paſſage from Baiæ to Miſenum; and probably the paſſage was cut by the ſucceſſors of Auguſtus. I am inclined to aſcribe the work to Lucullus, who delighted in undertakings of this kind, and who had a country houſe in Baiæ as well as in Miſenum. The rocky holes here are called, both by the country people and the mariners, the *grotta degli ſpirti:* the grotto of ghoſts.

This

This haven has been miſtakenly confounded, by ſome Italian authors, with the Julian haven. They are near to each other, and both were the work of Auguſtus; or more properly of Agrippa.

The frequently projecting now high now level cape, which, with its ſmall and low neck, forms a part of the round and every where ſteep hill of Miſenum, runs farther into the ſea than the Poſilipo, is waſhed by the roaring and foaming waves, and ſeparates the bay of Naples from the bay of Gaeta. The coaſts and iſlands ſeem carved and interſected with ſo playful a hand that they every where communicate, even to Italy itſelf, a peculiar and enchanting grandeur.

Some remains may ſtill be ſeen of the antient town of Miſenum. The hill in moſt parts is dug in hollows, and you proceed from one rocky vault to another. It is ſuppoſed that the Romans had a water ciſtern here: perhaps they likewiſe had their baths. The wind being againſt us, we were later than we expected; and therefore forbore to viſit the cavern by the light of torches. This cavern is ſometimes called *La Grotta Dragonara:* at others *Traconnaria.*

We

We went up the hill, and found parts of it planted with vine bowers and fig trees. Toward the top, we met with many aromatic plants, growing wild; and, oftener than the reſt, the *cactus opuntia*; or the Indian fig and the aloe. Theſe exotics of our green houſes were here growing wild. Here too we ſaw, on their tall ſtems, the gilded aloe flowers of the foregoing ſummer, higher than thoſe whoſe periodical blowing is advertiſed in our newſpapers; and which the lovers of Botany, allured from all parts, will make long journeys to ſee. We met with the ſame plant on the Poſilipo; and likewiſe with a kind of tree which none of us knew, the great beauty and peculiar form of which attracted our attention.

From the top of the hill, which is almoſt an iſland, we overlooked the cape; and beheld Baiæ, Bauli, the Dead Sea, the lake of Fuſaro, the Monte Nuovo, the hill of Gaurus, Pozzuoli, Solfatara, the caſtle of *Sant' Elmo*, which lies beyond Naples, the high monaſtery of *Camaldoli*, the iſland of Niſida, the promontory of Poſilipo, Mount Veſuvius, the whole coaſt of Sorento, the iſland of Capri, and, in the bay of Gaeta, the iſlands of Procida, Iſchia, and

and Ventotiene. Add, to all theſe, the charms of the ſea, and the delights of a climate in which, at this ſeaſon of the year, the fig and the vine are unfolding their beauties. On the 7th, I had ſeen the tops of the poplar, beſide the lake of Agnano, covered with young foliage. The graſs of the meadows has long been green. The *medicago arborea** and the *ſpartium*, with its beautiful yellow papilionaceous flower, whoſe form delights the ſight and its odour the ſmell, are in full bloom.

This hill was called the promontory of Miſenum as early as Livy. According to ſome, Miſenus was one of the companions of Ulyſſes: according to Virgil, who has an antient tradition in ſupport of his opinion,

——— *Quo non præſtantior alter*
Ære ciere viros martemque accendere cantu.

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* The *cytiſus* of Virgil. It is likewiſe called *cytiſus maranthæ*; and muſt not be confounded with our *cytiſus labernum* of the gardens, which alſo grows wild in the ſouth of Italy. The *medicago* has a reſemblance to our garden ſhrub *colutea*. I ſaw ſingle flowers the whole winter through, in the country round Rome. The leaves of this plant were held by the antients to be the beſt of fodder. See Voſs's Virgil, Geo. ii. 431.

Hectoris

Hectoris hic magni fuerat comes, Hectora circum
Et lituo pugnas insignis obibat et hasta.

VIRG. Æn. vi. 164.

——— none so renown'd,
The warrior trumpet in the field to sound:
With breathing brass to kindle fierce alarms;
And rouse to dare their fate, in honourable arms.
He serv'd great Hector; and was ever near,
Not with his trumpet only, but his spear.

DRYDEN, Æn. v. 243.

While Æneas was visiting the Sibyl of Cumæ, Misenus was missing.

Sed tum forte cava dum personat æquora concha,
Demens et cantu vocat in certamina Divos;
Æmulus exceptum Triton, si credere dignum est,
Inter saxa virum spumosa immerserat unda.

VIRG. Æn. vi. 171.

Swoln with applause, and aiming still at more,
He now provokes the sea-gods from the shore;
With envy Triton heard the martial sound,
And the bold champion for his challenge drown'd,
Then cast his mangled carcase on the strand.

DRYDEN, v. 251.

The Sibyl announced to Æneas the death of one of his companions; and, while he and the faithful *Achates*, who had accompanied him on his visit to the propheteſs, were bewailing

wailing the loſs of a comrade, and wondering who it could be that the Sibyl meant, they diſcovered Miſenus.

He was ſolemnly buried by Æneas under this mountain, as the poet thus relates:

At pius Æneas ingenti mole ſepulchrum
Imponit, ſuaque arma viro, remumque, tubamque,
Monte ſub aërio, qui nunc Miſenus ab illo
Dicitur, æternumque tenet per ſæcula nomen.

VIRG. Æn. vi. 232.

But good Æneas order'd on the ſhore
A ſtately tomb; whoſe top a trumpet bore:
A ſoldier's fauchion, and a ſeaman's oar.
Thus was his friend interr'd: and deathleſs fame
Still to the lofty cape conſigns his name.

DRYDEN, v. 331.

And ſtill it continues to be called *Il Capo Miſeno:* or *Monte Miſeno.* We neglected to viſit the freſh ſpring, which riſes before the hill out of the ſea.

We ſailed back with a pleaſant wind, and merrily compared the black woollen ſail of our boat to the black ſail with which Theſeus, forgetting the promiſe he had made to his father, ſailed back from Crete to Athens, after he had ſlain the Minotaur.

One of our boatmen, who no doubt had drunk

drunk too much at Miſeno, ſuddenly let a rope go, belonging to the ſail, which he held in his hand; and the motion of the boat, from the high wave, was ſo quick that we ſhipped a quantity of water: in ſo much that, had it but dipped an inch deeper, it ſeemed as if we ſhould all have periſhed.

LETTER LXX.

Naples, 15th March 1792.

"TRIBUNES of the people and "Quirites, this is the anniverſary of the day "on which, in the open field, I fortunately "fought in Africa, againſt Hannibal and the "Carthaginians. It is but juſt that diſputes "and calumny ſhould ceaſe, on ſuch a day. I "ſhall therefore go from this to the Capitol, "there to worſhip the great Jupiter, Juno, "Minerva, and the other gods; and pay them "my thanks, for that they, on this day, and "on other ſimilar occaſions, have given me "the power and the underſtanding to guard

"the

" the ſafety of the republic. Quirites, who-
" ever among you ſhall think proper, follow
" me; and entreat the gods to give you
" leaders like me, who, from my ſeventeenth
" year to the preſent hour, if my deeds have
" been rewarded by the honours you have
" conferred, have made my deeds more than
" deſerve thoſe honours and thoſe rewards."

Thus ſpoke Publius Scipio Africanus: diſdaining to anſwer the vile ſlanders, brought againſt him by mean demagogues. He roſe from the tribune, and aſcended the Capitol; and the whole aſſembly followed. The tribunes were deſerted by their very clerks, and public ſervants; and remained behind, with ſlaves, and malcontents, and the public accuſer. Scipio proceeded, attended by the people, not only to the Capitol but through the city; viſiting all the temples of the gods. There was more ſolemnity in the protection afforded him by his fellow citizens on this day, and in that grandeur of character by which it had been deſerved, than on that in which, after his victories over the Carthaginians and Syphax, he entered Rome in triumph.

The tribunes appointed a new day to hear the accuſers of the hero, who was fully determined

mined not to appear a ſecond time. They expected much from the conſideration in which their fellow tribune, Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus, was held: he who was the father of the Gracchi, who were both but too famous for the repoſe of Rome. But Sempronius, though the enemy of Scipio, honouring his great qualities, heroically became his admirer.

"I will not," ſaid he, "ſuffer Publius "Scipio to be accuſed before he returns to "Rome: and even then, ſhould he demand "it, I will be his defender. Scipio has attained ſo high a degree of glory, by the deeds "he has achieved and the dignities he has "acquired, favoured as he is by Gods and "men, that greater diſgrace would alight upon "the Roman people than upon Scipio, were "he to ſtand in the *Forum* as a man accuſed, "liſtening to the inſults and calumnies of "boys *." After this honourable incident, Scipio continued to live at Liternum.

We yeſterday viſited this place, which is denoted by a large ſtone tower, called *Torre di Patria*. The word *Patria*, it ſhould ſeem, was found written on this tower, as the re-

* Liv. lib. xxxviii. cap. 51, 52, 53.

mainder

mainder of an antient inſcription: *Ingrata patria, ne quidem oſſa mea habes:*—Ungrateful country, thou ſhalt not have my bones! No trace of this inſcription is now to be found. If it ever really were there, it muſt, like the tower, have been of later ages; and this building cannot have been more early than the Saracens. I conſider it as of much later date: for it is known that the Emperor, Charles the Fifth, cauſed thoſe towers to be built, which are frequently ſeen along the ſea coaſt, as watch towers, to guard againſt the corſairs.

It was even conteſted, in the time of Livy, whether Scipio died at and was buried in Rome, or Liternum: but, as hiſtory makes no mention of his return, and as the veil of ſilence is caſt over the laſt years of this great man, except that it was ſaid he gave orders when dying to be buried at his country ſeat, and to have a tomb erected there, becauſe he would not be interred in his ungrateful country, it appears probable that he actually was buried at Liternum *.

The

* *Silentium deinde de Africano fuit. Vitam Literni egit ſine deſiderio urbis. Morientem rure eo ipſo loco ſepeliri ſe juſſiſſe ferunt, monumentumque ibi ædificari, ne funus ſibi in ingrata patria fieret.*

The grave of Scipio was diſcovered ſome years ago, but not his aſhes; and there was a fable in the time of Pliny * that a dragon guarded his manes, in a cavern at Liternum. The tradition, which has deſcended from age to age, that this was his burial place, does not appear to me to be fabulous. Be that as it will, if this were the place which Scipio choſe for his reſidence, it would be more intereſting to me than if it were the place of his interment.

The place is now called *Patria;* and the lake, which was antiently the marſh of Liternum, *Lago di Patria.* The lake is ſmall at its entrance; and there is a ferry that muſt be paſſed to go to the tower, which ſtands on a ſandy ſhore that is overgrown with low laurel buſhes, myrtles, roſemary, the maſtic, the juniper tree, and an uncommon ſpecies of

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There was no more mention made of Scipio Africanus. He lived at Liternum, without viſiting Rome; and it was ſaid that, dying at his country ſeat, it was his command that he ſhould be buried at this place; and that a monument ſhould be erected there, that his body might no more be brought to his ungrateful country. Liv. lib. xxxviii. cap. 53.

* Plin. Nat. Hiſt. lib. xvi. cap. 44.

honeyſuckle. On each ſide of the lake, remains may be ſeen of antient Literum; and, on the ſide next Naples, the land is very fruitful. Excellent water melons are produced here, in ſummer; and we found the *tacet*, the *ranunculus*, and a late, but very high coloured and ſtrong ſcented, kind of violet. The ſweet pea is now in bloom. The water of the lake is troubled, and has a brackiſh taſte: but there is a clear and freſh ſpring, that bubbles up under a wild fig tree, out of the bed of the lake.

On this ſide of the lake, we likewiſe find ſome antient tombs; out of one of which a pillar of white marble has lately been dug, and ſent to Averſa. One of them had an arched entrance; and this may probably be the ſepulchre of the great Scipio: the cavern in which the fabulous dragon was ſuppoſed to have been ſeen, ſtationed there to watch his manes.

Patria is a long German mile beyond Cumæ. The road from thence leads through Pozzuoli; and through the antient gate of Cumæ, which is called *Arco Felice*. From Patria there is a view over the whole bay of Gaeta; and

the neighbouring iſland of Iſchia heightens the uncommon charms of the proſpect.

To the north there is a foreſt; which was notorious, in the time of the antients, becauſe of the robbers by which it was infeſted. The chiefs of theſe robbers frequently paſſed this way, that they might look at the great Scipio *.

The air of Patria in ſummer is very noxious; and moſt of the country people live at a diſtance from theſe fields. The country houſe of Scipio, if immediately on the ſea ſhore, might be leſs expoſed to the bad qualities of the air: or it might have become injurious in later times, when the overflowing of the *Clanius*, or *Lagno*, had mingled its waters with the ſea. However, we find that, at leaſt in Virgil's time, the river often overflowed its banks.

———*Vacuis Clanius non æquus Acerris* †.

VIRG. Geor. ii. 225.

And ſuch a country could *Acerra* boaſt,
Till *Clanius* overflow'd th' unhappy coaſt.

DRYDEN, 307.

* Val. Max. ii. Nr. 2.

† The lake was called *Clanius*, and *Clanis*.

Various

Various antient tombs are ſeen between Patria and Cumæ. We moſtly paſſed through very fertile fields of wheat, or of the ſweet pea. High elms were planted in rows over all of them; and theſe trees were the ſupport of the vine. The vineyards impart the greateſt charm to the country of which a country can be capable. Among them we likewiſe ſaw fig trees, that are now in leaf; and the peach and apricot in bloom. High ladders were reared againſt the elms, and the people were employed in trimming the vine.

The cattle of this country are of a light grey colour; as in the States of the Church, and in Tuſcany: but they are diſtinguiſhed from the cattle of theſe countries by their long legs. Neither have the oxen ſuch prodigious horns as in the *Campagna di Roma*. The goats and ſheep are handſome; and I have ſince ſeen other ſheep ſtill more handſome, in Lombardy and Modena.

When I ſee the goats browſing among the leafy rocks, how frequently do I remember the beautiful complaint of the countryman of Virgil, who was obliged to give up his houſe and field to a ſoldier!

Ite meæ, felix quondam pecus! ite capellæ!
Non ego vos poſthac, viridi projectus in antro,
Dumoſa pendere procul de rupe videbo!

VIRG. Ecl. i. 75.

Farewell, my paſtures, my paternal ſtock:
My fruitful fields, and my more fruitful flock!
No more, my goats, ſhall I behold you climb
The ſteepy cliffs, or crop the flow'ry thyme!

DRYDEN, 102.

LETTER LXXI.

Naples, 18th March 1792.

NO country can well be richer than this, in antiquities of different kinds. We every where diſcover remains of the Greeks, which were even honoured and admired by their conquerors, thoſe ravagers of mankind, the Romans. A knowledge of Grecian hiſtory will often point out traces of times in which Rome, that gulph of nations, was unknown to the inhabitants of the ſouth of Italy: conſequently to the Greeks—of times in which Rome

Rome, if we date its foundation from the era of Romulus, was not in exiſtence.

Legends more early have been adopted by poets, and received the embelliſhments of poetry. Here the grand annals of nature are always open, but ſeldom read; and more ſeldom underſtood, by the friend of natural hiſtory. Subterranean fires, at different periods, have ſhaken this wonderful theatre, which has been ſubject to ſo many changes. The lofty cape of Poſilipo, projecting far into the ſea, conſiſts of volcanic matter. Here we find mountains that have ſunk; and there mountains that have ariſen. Herculaneum, one of the moſt antient Greek towns of Italy, was firſt diſcovered in the preſent century. Portici and Reſina ſtand built over the roofs of its houſes; which lay obſcured, ingulphed, and undiſcovered, more than ſeventeen centuries: and each of theſe places is daily in danger of being ſhaken and ingulphed like Herculaneum. Children of a future generation perhaps will riſe up, and build over their ruins, and aſcend to the third ſtory, over thoſe who now live in the ſecond: like as Herculaneum, the ground floor, was inhabited till the firſt year of the reign of Titus.

In the ſame year, the 79th after the birth of Chriſt, the antient town of Pompeii was in like manner deſtroyed. Pompeii was not ſituated immediately where the diſcharge from Mount Veſuvius was the greateſt; ſo that it was overwhelmed with an equally deſtructive, but not an equally high, hill of aſhes: though high enough to fill up, and cover, the ſtreets and houſes; and to ſuffer the town to remain ſeventeen hundred years unnoticed beneath the heap.

The founding of Pompeii, like that of Herculaneum, was aſcribed to Hercules. It ſeems to have received its name from his triumphant return with the cattle, which he brought out of Spain to Greece: ἀπο πομπης των βοων. That account however is the moſt probable, which tells us that Pompeii, as well as Herculaneum, was firſt inhabited by the *Oſci*, then by the *Tyrrheni* and *Pelaſgi*, and afterward by the *Samnites*; who, like other conquerors, probably were expelled by the inhabitants of one of the neighbouring Greek towns *.

Like as this town had been ſubject to political revolutions, ſo did it afford manifeſt

* Cluv. Ital. Ant.

tokens of the revolutions of nature previous to that deſtructive eruption of the year 79, which concealed it from the ſight of man. It appears, however, that the antients did not underſtand thoſe tokens, which are ſo indubitable. The houſes were for the moſt part built on a hill; which hill conſiſts of volcanic matter; and the ſtreets, like the Appian way, were paved with lava.

The ſituation of Pompeii is pleaſant. It lies a full quarter of a league from the ſea, and half a league from *Caſtell a Mare:* the antient *Stabiæ*, which was built under the hills at the ſouth angle of the bay of Naples.

The fertility of the land, aided by the mildneſs of the climate, affords the productions of earth in ſuperior beauty and rich profuſion. I yeſterday ſaw roſe buds, beginning to bloſſom, in the court of an antient villa near Pompeii; and, in the garden of the villa, the double gillyflower and the variegated pea, *lathyrus*, are in bloom. Here and there, I ſaw fields of wheat, beginning to ear; and moſt of the trees, which ſhed their leaves in autumn, have not yet ſhed them here. After the manner of the country, the fields are planted with trees and vines in regular rows.

We

We met with a broad bed of lava, between Portici and Pompeii; which, in the year 1767, ſuddenly guſhed from two hills, ſtanding at the foot of Mount Veſuvius, and ran into the ſea. Similar eruptions may have contributed to give new limits to the ſea. In fact, it appears that Pompeii once lay immediately on the ſea ſhore. Livy relates that, in the year 440 after the building of Rome, and 330 before the birth of Chriſt, a Romiſh ſquadron landed at Pompeii. I grant that we can form no eſtimate of the antient extent of this town, while only ſo ſmall a part of it ſhall be uncovered: but, as we do not find in antient authors Pompeii deſcribed as a very great place, I therefore conjecture that the preſſing forward of the lava, and the farther embanking of the aſhes, may have contracted the boundaries of the water.

All Poſilipo took birth, in early ages, from the eruptions of this fiery mountain; although there is no hiſtory of the country that mentions any ſuch event: but its whole ſubſtance is volcanic matter.

This volcanic matter is of very different kinds; which muſt be moſt accurately examined, before any true judgment can be formed,

formed, from vegetation and its progreſs, of the time when the entrails of the mountain were here diſgorged. Pure lava remains ſo very long unfruitful that hundreds, or probably thouſands of years may have paſſed away; but the droſs may much ſooner moulder to earth, or be mixed with the ſoil. Whoever would eſtimate the different relations, between the lava and the *ſcoria*, muſt take into the account the different ſubſtances of different lavas; and likewiſe the different *ſcoria*, droſs, and aſhes. A novice myſelf in natural hiſtory, I know not whether the ſcience of the greateſt adepts will be ſufficient to ſolve ſo perplexed a problem. Of the reality of the many kinds of lava, and *ſcoria*, my own eyes have convinced me.

The eruption of the year 1767 appears to have emitted much more *ſcoria* than lava; and more aſhes than *ſcoria*. The broad bed, which it produced, already begins here and there to be ſcattered with vegetation. It is known how much the growth and decay of graſs contributes to the growth of greater plants. The tender ramifications of the roots bind together the materials round which they entwine;

entwine; and the putrefcence of little plants promotes the vegetation of greater.

We alighted from our carriage at that part of the town which was firft difcovered; and here we faw a large fquare place, the interior of which contained pillars of maffy grandeur, and the outer part confifted of buildings. A deep tiled gutter defcended from the flat roofs of the houfes, which were higher than the pillars, and contributed to form a covered way: but thefe pent-houfes, as well as the roofs themfelves, are overloaded with the afhes of Vefuvius. The guttered pent-houfes that have been difcovered are large, ftrong, and handfomely conftructed. The pillars are of flate-ftone; the decorations are of the Doric order, and covered below with a deep red, and above with a white, plaifter. This plaifter, both in colour and polifh, is aftonifhingly well preferved: but it increafes that impreffion of infignificance which thefe pillars produce; and which, beyond doubt, were the work of the Romans.

This place, and the houfes that encloſe it, are generally fuppofed to have been the quarters of the Roman foldiers. Others maintain that

that the place was the *Forum;* and that the ſurrounding places were built for ſhops.

Near this place are the ruins of a large theatre; which is likewiſe ſuppoſed by ſome to have been intended for the Roman ſoldiers. An amphitheatre would have rendered this opinion more probable: though the amphitheatres, which were built by the Romans in the provinces, were not ſolely deſtined to the recreation of the ſoldiers.

There is a Roman inſcription on a projecting wall connected with the theatre; which wall was likewiſe part of a theatre of another kind, that is concealed under the hill of the preſent unremoved rubbiſh. It was called an *Odeum.* I know not whether any antiquarian have accurately defined the idea that the antients annexed to the word *Odeum*, which is evidently derived from the Greek word ὠδὴ: an ode, ballad, or ſong. The *Odea* were no doubt appropriated to muſic: but who can ſay that this *Theatrum tectum*, or roofed theatre, was an *Odeum?* It is probable; but it is not proved: and only probable becauſe the dramatic repreſentations of the antients were exhibited in open theatres.

The Roman magiſtrates, according to the cuſtom

cuſtom of this people, bargained with a contractor, a claſs of men whom they called *redemptores*, for the building of this theatre: as the inſcription teſtifies.

C. QVINCTIVS. C. F. VALG.
M. PORCIVS. M. F.
DVO. VIR. DEC. DECR.
THEATRVM. TECTVM.
FAC. LOC. EIDEMQ. PROB.

*(Cajus Quinctius, Caji filius Valgius, Marcus Porcius, Marci filius, Duoviri decuriones (*or *decurionum) decreverunt Theatrum tectum, facere locárunt, eidemque probárunt.)*

There ſtill are conſiderable remains of a temple of Iſis. It is known that the Egyptian idolatries, and particularly the myſteries of Iſis, were frequently mingled with thoſe of the Romans, frequently perſecuted, and frequently endured. Wine coagulated, bread, and prepared fleſh, were found in a ſuppoſed chamber of the prieſts.

Beyond all other buildings, for its high antiquity, which have been diſcovered under the rubbiſh of Pompeii, are the ruins of a temple: the large Doric pillars of which, and their chapiters, denote the very early time of Greek art;

art; when, in half rude ſimplicity and yet unformed, it was full of grandeur and ſtrength; and, in the true Doric ſpirit, diſdained all ornament, as offenſive. This ſame ſpirit breathes in the Doric dialect of Pindar and Theocritus; and, if we may believe the teſtimony of the antients, it likewiſe breathed in the Doric muſic.

This part of the town was terraced on unequal ground; for which reaſon, in ſome houſes, you go from the ground floor on one ſide, without deſcending a ſtair caſe, into the third ſtory of the oppoſite ſide.

The hill, againſt which the buildings of the town leaned, is of volcanic matter, and contains *ſcoria;* among which ſmall ſtones, of the ſize of a pea, are found, but which are not all ſmooth and ſpherical, ſome of them ſeeming to have been cut, by art, into four-and-twenty equal faces. Time, and the matter of which they are compoſed, have produced this cryſtallization. I own I ſuſpected this to be a deception; till, by ſearching among the droſs, which lies on the little hill, I diſcovered ſimilar ſtones.

All the houſes have a ſmall court, round which the chambers are built; and all theſe chambers

chambers are ſmall, and low. Some muſt have been rather dark; others have many windows. We found no chimney place in any one of them: the ſmoke of the kitchen aſcended through a ſmall aperture, and the kitchens were narrow and dark. The vapour bath was generally next to the kitchen. The rooms for the ſlaves were below, near the kitchen, ſmall, and dark; as might well have been ſuppoſed, from the ſevere manner in which the ſlaves were treated. The doors likewiſe, in the upper apartments, were generally ſo low that you muſt bend to paſs under them.

The inhabitants here muſt have had time to ſave themſelves and their furniture, though not in Herculaneum; becauſe this town was overwhelmed by the deſtruction of the mountain, at the foot of which it ſtood, before it was buried under the lava. The few bones and ſkulls, that have been found in Pompeii, may be thoſe of perſons who were too reluctant in their flight: the bodies of priſoners, chained to one another, have likewiſe been diſcovered. Time has thickened the aſhes, and condenſed them to a ſolid body; and in ſome of theſe conſolidated aſhes we were ſhewn deep footſteps.

The

The chamber, intended for the cold bath, had four niches: the roof was in the form of a cone, and had an opening in the centre; which probably was intended, as ſtill may be ſeen in baths for the ſick, to ſcatter water in ſtreams over diſeaſed limbs.

In another bath, a great number of little pitchers of ſalve were found, hanging to nails.

In a vapour bath, we ſaw an ornamental half-round niche, vaulted in the form of an open ſhell. Sufficient room was left, between the niche and the wall, to ſuffer the warm ſurrounding air to come to the back of the niche, and perform its office.

We went from this part of the town to another, which was at ſome diſtance; paſſing among vineyards and over ſtreets, the rubbiſh of which had not yet been cleared away. The King only ſuffers that part of the ground that belongs to him to be cleared. The expence of purchaſing the lands, under which the antient town is buried, and of the fields, upon which the rubbiſh that is carried away muſt be heaped, deterred him from purſuing the undertaking with greater ardour becauſe of the extravagant demands of their owners.

Seventy-five labourers are daily employed by him at this work.

We came to two ſtreets the houſes of which, the roofs excepted, were for the greateſt part preſerved. The ſtreets were only ſix paces wide; and, in the hard pavement of lava, you perceive the deep ruts of wheels. A large houſe, that was open in the front, and before the centre of which there was a high pedeſtal, where probably the ſtatue of an Emperor ſtood, was, as it is conjectured, a cuſtom houſe. Another houſe appears as if it had been a ſoap manufactory. This conjecture is made from the large deep kind of vats, which were cut in ſtone; and from the chalk, which we ſaw lying in heaps.

The floors of ſeveral houſes were inlaid with Moſaic work: the walls were painted, and generally with vivid colours; with high red, ſeldom with green, frequently with a dark yellow, but moſt often with a kind of blue that reſembles the Pruſſian blue.

On theſe floors ſmall paintings are ſeen; which, as ſoon as they are ſprinkled with water, recover their original vivacity, as if juſt traced by the pencil: but this continues only

only a few minutes. Without the aid of water, they are of a dead colour. Some of the landſcapes are excellently touched; and garlands of flowers ſerpentine with a free and tender air. Architectural ſketches demonſtrate that the rules of perſpective were not ſo entirely unknown, to the antients, as is generally believed. Figures of men and cattle are, in part, very beautiful; and others, ſuſpended in the air, are lovely and full of grace.

Thoſe, who ſhould judge of the ſtate of the arts, among the antients, from the pictures found on theſe walls, would draw very wrong concluſions. How falſe would that eſtimate be, of the modern art of painting, which ſhould be made from the pictures found in the houſes of a country town! What would follow, were ſuch an eſtimate to be formed from the paintings in freſco; which we meet with in the houſes, chapels, and churches of all the towns of Italy; inſtead of examining the dignity and worth of the immortal maſters, whoſe works are in Genoa, Parma, Bologna, Florence, and Rome?

The works of Zeuxis, Apelles, and Protogenes, are entirely loſt. Theſe and others would be no leſs ineſtimable than the works

of the great ſculptors, Phidias, Praxiteles, and Lyſippus: though it is probable that no work of theirs is now to be found. The labours of ſculptors of an inferior order, among the antients, have never yet been equalled by our moſt famous artiſts.

The truth is that the honour of the modern chiſſel has never equalled the fame of the modern pencil; but has remained at a mortifying diſtance.

Theſe trifling pictures however are ſome proof, in favour of the art of painting among the antients. It is not unjuſt to judge of great things by ſmall. If the works of the daubers of a country town, which had long been rather Roman than Grecian, could attain ſo much expreſſion, and ſo many graces, what was the exalted degree of beauty, which had been attained by the early maſters of a favourite art; whoſe works were the admiration of Corinth, Sicyon, Athens, Tarentum, Syracuſe, and Agrigentum!

That theſe paintings were really of the Roman times the frequent repreſentations of gladiators ſufficiently prove. Who is ignorant that the iron genius of Rome rather terrified than invited the tender Muſes, and their favourite

vourite productions? Thus fled the affrighted Galatea, from the rude careſſes of the ſavage Polyphemus.

People here aſſert that an amphitheatre was diſcovered at this place in the laſt King's reign, and again covered up; which was larger than the Flavian amphitheatre, or Coloſſeum, of Rome. The Flavian amphitheatre was the greateſt public building which, till that time, had ever been erected by Rome. It was begun by Veſpaſian, continued by Titus, and completed by Domitian. Yet this town of Pompeii, which was deſtroyed in the firſt year of the reign of Titus, was poſſeſſed of a larger amphitheatre than the Flavian! An abſurdity like this is undeſerving of farther remark.

I liſten with aſtoniſhment, when I am told that an antient inſcription, which was diſcovered in the amphitheatre of Capua, proves that this amphitheatre was built in the time of Veſpaſian: however the amphitheatre at Capua was not ſo large as the Coloſſeum; nor was Pompeii ſo conſiderable a city as Capua.

All the inſcriptions that I have ſeen in Pompeii are Latin: in Naples, the manners and

the language of Greece long after this continued to prevail.

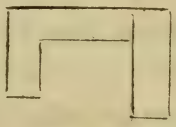
He muſt have been a good man who cauſed the word *Salve*, You are welcome, to be inſcribed in moſaic work over his door. We found it at the entrances of two houſes.

Swinburne read an inſcription, in which a woman offers her houſe to hire for ſhameful purpoſes; who refers for her character to the Ædile, a principal officer among the magiſtrates of Rome.

An object is here very frequently met with, which decency does not permit me to name. Thoſe, who blindly defend the antients, may affirm that theſe repreſentations were mingled with the religious ideas of the people; of this I am not ignorant.

The inhuman ſpectacle of the gladiators was likewiſe intended to ſhew their reſpect for the dead, and to honour their gods. Falſe religion is deviſed in conformity to the paſſions of men: it therefore flatters theſe paſſions. Citing the example of their Gods and Goddeſſes, what was the ſpecies of cruelty which the Greeks and Romans might not palliate? Purity of heart, benevolence, and love,

love, were the conſequences of that true religion by which they were taught. We found a *triclinium*, in a houſe, which was cut out of ſtone. *Triclinium* was the name that the antients gave to their three-ſided couches; on which three perſons might recline and eat at a low table. They were covered with cuſhions. The *triclinium* we ſaw had ſomething like the following figure.



At one end of the town, we ſaw tombs; before ſome of which *exedræ*, of ſtone, ſtood: which was the name of half circular ſeats, that would contain eight, ten, or more people. The antients were very fond of them: they likewiſe called them *ſcholæ*, when they were intended for philoſophical diſputes, or rhetorical exerciſes. In fact, they are exceedingly convenient for the free converſation of a company of people; becauſe, from their circular form, they might each ſee the countenances of the whole. Who is not delighted with the animation that enlivens the phyſiognomy of

the perſon ſpeaking, the playful changes which the features aſſume, and the full and feeling expreſſion of the eye : eſpecially among the ſouthern nations, the countenances and eyes of whom are ſo full of life ? And how much is loſt, when theſe are not ſeen !

The following inſcription was on the arm of an *exedra* of this kind.

MAMMIAE P. F. SACERDOTI. PVPLICAE LOCVS
SEPVLTVR.
DATVS DECVRIONVM. DECRETO.

" This ſepulchre is erected, by the decree of the *Decuriones*, to the memory of Mammia, daughter of Publius, who was a prieſteſs."

The tomb of this prieſteſs was ſeparated from the *exedra* by a little court ; and, facing the ſepulchre, hollow terrific maſks of baked earth were placed ; which were intended to ſerve as lamps, and the flaming mouths and eyes of which, by night, muſt have had a fearful look.

Might not their probable intention have been to avert by terror the intruſion of curioſity, or the avarice of the robber ?

At a little diſtance from the town, there is a country houſe, the whole plan of which is not

not viſible. It appears to have belonged to ſome man of note: we flattered ourſelves with the pleaſing idea that this was the villa which Cicero had at Pompeii: his *Pompeianum*.

This country ſeat, like the houſes of the town, incloſed a court; the portico of which had an angular roof, that connected it with the flat roofs of the whole building; by which they together formed a covered way. Theſe pillars were likewiſe covered with white plaiſter above, and with red below. We met with lovely little pictures in the chambers, in the taſte of thoſe that I have deſcribed. There was a very pleaſant figure, in a private chamber, of a woman with the prow of a ſhip in her right hand, and a *cornucopia* in her left. The *cornucopia* no doubt ſignified the prolific power of the country: but what the meaning of the prow of the ſhip was is not ſo eaſy to diſcover. The image of *Stercutius**, the God of manure, for even manure had its God, could certainly not have been ſo lovely.

Some of the apartments were conſiderably large; at leaſt when compared to the ſmall chambers of the houſes in the town. The habitation of the *Villicus*, or ſteward, was near

* Likewiſe called *Sterculius* and *Stercutus*.

the

the houſe of the maſter. In this houſe Swinburne, a traveller of credibility and obſervation, found ſome glaſs in a window*.

The long conteſted queſtion, whether the uſe of glaſs windows were or were not known to the antients, has been decided in their favour.

This houſe is ſituated on the ſide of a hill, and has three ſtories, on the ſide toward the garden, built over the kitchen, and the appertaining apartments: you ſtep into the court from the ſecond ſtory.

The garden is not large; and in this ſmall place there was a little ſquare pond, in the middle of which a fountain roſe. There was likewiſe a garden houſe, the pillars of which are ſtill ſtanding. After a lapſe of ſeventeen hundred years, this garden once again is cultivated. We found many double gilliflowers in it, and peach trees in bloom.

There is a perſon that lives in the houſe of the *Villicus*, who is probably an overſeer of the workmen.

* Swinburne's Travels in the Two Sicilies, vol. iii. p. 155. The words of Swinburne are—"In the window of a bedchamber, ſome panes of glaſs are ſtill remaining." T.

Under

Under three ſides of the garden wall, a handſome broad cellar runs; in which are ſeveral large *amphoræ*, or earthen veſſels. Nine bodies were found in this cellar.

It is probable that men, in the confuſion and anguiſh of their minds, ran here to protect themſelves when the ſhower of hot aſhes began.

The body of a man was found in the houſe, who had a purſe of money in his hand.

Were we but acquainted with the condition of the owner of this villa, we might then better compare the manner of living among the antients, with our own, than we poſſibly can as it is. Moſt of the houſes, in the two ſtreets of the town, that have been uncovered, appear to have belonged to artiſans: as ſuch, they are not bad. In one houſe, ſeveral books and ſurgical inſtruments were found. It belonged no doubt to a phyſician, and is better built than the others. Still however it appears that the houſes of the antients poſſeſſed fewer conveniences than thoſe of the moderns. I aſcribe this difference to the mildneſs of the climate of the ſouth; and to the manner of living among the Greeks and

and Romans, who never ſaw company except at their meals.

The mind is impreſſed with very peculiar feelings, on wandering through theſe dwellings of times of yore. The recollection of their antiquity, and of the fearful accidents of nature by which three towns were deſtroyed, aſſociates itſelf with the ſhades of ſeventeen centuries: ſhades which, over the buried habitations of their forefathers, wander for a moment and then vaniſh.

Ἐπαμεροι τι δε τις; τι δ' ϗτις;
Σκιας ὀναρ ἀνθρωποι· ἀλλ' ὁταν ἀιγλα
Διοσδοτος ἐλθῃ,
Λαμπρον ἐπεστι φεγγος ανδρῶν,
Και μειλιχος ἀιων.

PIND. Pyth. viii. ep. 5.

Child of a day! What art thou, man?
A dream of ſhadows; nothing more:
Unleſs the Gods impart a ray
That gives thee light, and gives thee life.

LET-

LETTER LXXII.

Naples, 19th March 1792.

NOT only nature but the works of men, in theſe countries, preſent us with enigmas; which neither the knowledge of antiquity can ſolve, nor penetration diſcover, to the ſatisfaction of the underſtanding. We do not only aſk, When did the Poſilipo riſe up? From what eruption? And out of what volcano? Where is the burning mountain, the entrails of which produced this lofty cape? We likewiſe demand what hand of man was it that cut through theſe materials, after they had become as hard as ſtone, for the ſpace of nine hundred and ſixty paces? To what end? In what age?

Through the hill of tufa ſtone, which lies on the north of Naples, was this prodigious paſſage cut! A paſſage which, under the name of the catacombs, was indeed leſs celebrated than the catacombs of Rome: though, I am well aſſured, for I have not ſeen the latter, that, by their height and their relative labour, for they are not walled but cut in the ſtone, they

they are more remarkable than thoſe of Rome, notwithſtanding that they are not ſo great in their circumference. The enigma concerning theſe catacombs would not have been equally difficult, had thoſe who made the inquiry been pleaſed to prefer the probable to the miraculous: or reaſonable conjecture to abſurd hypotheſis.

One fable clings to another; like the bats of Homer, that, in long rows, hang one by the other from the rocks, and, as ſoon as one quits his hold, the reſt all fly, hiſſing, into their holes.

A miſconception of a paſſage of this great poet, and the paſſage which perhaps would leaſt lead to miſconception, gave riſe to the fable of the caverns inhabited by the Cimmerii. Homer tells us that the empire of Death, and the cells of the Cimmerii, were at the utmoſt bounds of the deep ſtreaming ocean.

Ἡ (i.e. ναυς) δ' ἐς πειραθ ἱκανε βαθυῤῥοϑ ωκεανοῖο·
Ἔνθα δε Κιμμεριων ανδρῶν δημος τε, πολις τε,
Ἠερι και νε φελῃ κεκαλυμμενοι· ουδε ποτ' αυτους
Ἠελιος φαεθων επιδερκεται ακτινεσσιν,
Οὐδ' ὁποτ' ἀν τειχῃσι προς ουρανον ἀστεροεντα,
Οὐδ' ὁταν ἀψ επι γαιαν ἀπ' ουρανοθεν προτραπηται·
Ἀλλ' ἐπι νυξ ὀλοη τεταται δειλοισι βροτοισι.

Odyſſ. b. xi. 13.

When

When lo! we reached old ocean's utmoſt bounds,
Where rocks controul his waves with ever during mounds.
There in a lonely land, and gloomy cells,
The duſky nation of *Cimmeria* dwells;
The ſun ne'er views th' uncomfortable ſeats,
When radiant he advances, or retreats:
Unhappy race! whom endleſs night invades,
Clouds the dull air, and wraps them round in ſhades.
POPE, Od. b. xi. v. 13.

Well, the end of this deep ſtreaming ocean was diſcovered! And where? In the little Lucrine lake! And becauſe the ſun was ſeen to riſe and ſet over its inſignificant waters, like as it did over thoſe of the ſea, the Cimmerians lived concealed in gloomy cells, where

The ſun ne'er views th' uncomfortable ſeats,
When radiant he advances or retreats!

A perſon of the name of *Ephorus* either invented the tale, maintained it, or related it ſuch as it had been told to him; and after him, it was repeated by Strabo; and thenceforward we hear of nothing but the ſubterranean Cimmerii: ſo that wherever a cave was diſcovered, there traces of the groping Cimmerii were ſought. All this happened becauſe it was not perceived with what ſagacity

Homer concealed the dread horrors of his ſcene, in the clouded fables of midnight darkneſs. Oh! how long have the ſpectacled commentators of the dignified blind poet ingeniouſly groped after his meaning!

Fooliſh however as this tale is, according to which the Cimmerii inhabited the catacombs of Naples, that opinion is ſtill more abſurd which aſcribes theſe catacombs, as well as thoſe at Rome, to the primitive Chriſtians. That they ſhould aſſemble in ſubterranean places like theſe to worſhip their God, during the times of perſecution under the Heathen Emperors, is ſufficiently probable. Some altars and pictures appear to prove this opinion. But that, in the very times of perſecution, they ſhould be able, ſecretly, to aſſemble and perform labours ſo prodigious as theſe is of all abſurd conjectures the moſt abſurd.

It is likewiſe probable that many martyrs were buried here: for your eye convinces you that the catacombs were public burial places. To this we may add it is poſſible that, when, at length, the Chriſtians ceaſed from being perſecuted, they occaſionally aſſembled here to perform their rites, in memory of theſe Martyrs; and that the altars and pictures are

of

of later ages than thoſe of the Pagan perſecution.

The catacombs of this place conſiſt of three ſubterranean vaultings, one over the other: the undermoſt is falling to decay. The two uppermoſt have likewiſe, in ſome and perhaps in many places, been injured by time. It is maintained that theſe paſſages, which branch themſelves out in many directions, lead to ſeveral places; to Capua, Benevento, Pozzuoli, and Poſilipo. On both ſides of the vaults there are cavities, cut over one another, each of which might contain a body. Skulls and bones have been found in great numbers. Many of them are of very late times; nay ſome are the conſequence of the laſt plague, with which the city of Naples was viſited thirty years ago. The body of a man, who was a keeper of the catacombs at that time, has been entirely preſerved; and this gave occaſion to a modern traveller, who, with the love of truth and information, viſited theſe places, to imagine, at the ſight of this body, that travellers have frequently been plundered and murdered in the catacombs: a ſuppoſition which was entirely groundleſs.

The opinion that this work was firſt under-

taken in order to procure ſtones, for the building of the city, appears to me probable. It may very well have happened that, in later times, the bodies of the people, or perhaps of their ſlaves, were interred here. After the paſſages had once been cut, it coſt but little trouble to cut graves, on both ſides, in the ſtone. The catacombs of Rome are not cut in the rock; but ſand has been dug from them, mixed with volcanic aſhes; which are found at Rome in great quantities. Theſe the Romans mixed with their lime; and by this means produced an excellent mortar. The mixture of volcanic aſhes with ſand is at preſent called *pozzolana*; becauſe ſuch mixtures are found in great quantities at Pozzuoli, and theſe of all others are the beſt.

The darkneſs of the catacombs, the cloſeneſs of the humid air, and the dead men's bones, which the ſpectator diſcovers by the glimmering light of the torch, add terror to terror.

The road to death has always a terrifying aſpect; and the ruins of theſe ſepulchral holes, for the bodies of men, are additionally terrific.

Whenever the poets of the antients, even in their moſt jocund moments, recollect the darkneſs

darkneſs of the grave, they ſhudder at the thought. The roſy goblet, and the melody of the harmonious lyre, are no guard againſt this evil. In vain did the Epicurean endeavour to baniſh the thoughts of death! Nature was true to her own emotions. You cannot, like Alexander, with Bucephalus, ſo place her that her ſhadow may not be perceptible. More audacious and proud than the ſcholars of Epicurus, the Stoics ſpurned at and baniſhed nature; but could not eſcape being trampled on and ſpurned in return.

"But the people which ſat in darkneſs ſaw "great light; and to them that dwell in the "region and ſhadow of Death light is ſprung "up*."

The lamp of godlike hope, though under a cloud, burnt from generation to generation; fed with the oil of Heaven.

"But the kingdom of Heaven was at hand." The wiſdom and the love of God, concealed, in the form of man, appeared viſibly on earth; it then deſcended to the grave, and afterward roſe victorious, and enlightened and cheered the nations! Before this light, the

* Matt. iv. 16.

ſhadows of the valley of Death, and all its phantoms, vaniſhed!

Tender virgins, dauntleſs, met the terrors of death, in its moſt tremendous forms, with ſmiles and ſongs of thankſgiving! And, ſeventeen centuries having paſſed away, the ſacred poet thus ſang:

Schweig denn du o thräne die in wehmuth troſt weinet,
Mach das herz nicht weich! tröſte nicht mehr!
Iſt am ziel denn nicht vollendung?
Nicht im thale des todes wonnegeſang?

KLOPST. Meſſ. xx. geſ.

Ceaſe then the tears that comfort, yet afflict!
Enfeeble not thy heart! complain no more!
Will not thy mortal ſorrows quickly ceaſe,
And ſongs immortal cheer the vale of death?

LETTER LXXIII.

Naples, 22d March 1792.

I HAVE viſited the Royal Muſeum, which is at Portici: but do not expect from me

me an account of all its curioſities; much leſs an accurate deſcription of ſo many objects that are worthy the notice of a lover of antiquity. To ſuch a perſon, no muſeum in Europe is more intereſting than this. The Muſeum-Clementinum-Pium contains works of art that are much more perfect: but ſimilar rarities are to be found in the individual collections of the principal Romans.

It may be remarked that the love of the arts is not inimical to the love of antiquity. From the writings of the Greeks and the Romans we become acquainted with their manner of thinking, and of feeling; with their morals, and cuſtoms; yet we frequently find a want of the viſible inſpection of theſe cuſtoms. And, as there is nothing among men which is not related to the things around them, there can be no doubt but that manners and cuſtoms alternately elucidate each other; and that a view of the houſehold furniture of the antients will render many paſſages in their writers intelligible. Thus the great collection of lamps, which were diſcovered after being buried in rubbiſh ſeventeen centuries, will ſhew the manner in which the antients lighted their houſes.

Thoſe, who accuſe obſervations, which they do not find intereſting to themſelves, of being barren, do but prove the barrenneſs of their own underſtanding; which cannot diſcover the connection, and aſſociation, of objects with each other.

This great Muſeum contains nothing but the articles that have been found in the three towns of Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Stabia.

In the court of the caſtle of Portici there are two equeſtrian ſtatues: one of Marcus Balbus, the Roman Proconſul and Procurator in Herculaneum; and the other of his ſon. The ſtatues are beautiful; and the horſes, like moſt of the horſes of antient art, though not blameleſs, are full of life. They are of white marble, and I believe are unique in their kind: at leaſt, all the antient ſtatues of horſes before them, that I have ſeen, were of bronze. It is ſaid that the ſentinels uſed to require every man, as he paſſed theſe horſes, to take off his hat. Theſe ſtatues were a decoration to the theatre in Herculaneum.

In the court of the Muſeum there is a horſe of bronze, which appears to me to be more beautiful than thoſe of marble. It is of the ſize of life; and is the only one preſerved of a chariot

a chariot and four, that ſtood over the theatre.

Two large pillars, written over with the names of Greek places, ſtood in the town of Herculaneum: their purpoſe was to tell the diſtance to each place.

A ſmall handmill, diſcovered in Stabia, has ſerved as a model for mills which the preſent Pope has ordered to be made; which it is aſſerted produce better oil and in greater quantities than the oil-preſſes in common uſe: becauſe they do not cruſh the ſtone of the berry*.

We ſaw ſome earthen veſſels; which ſeem to have been intended for the cages of little animals, that probably were to be fattened.

* Giovanni Preſta, a ſcientific man in Gallipoli, maintains, on the contrary, that the modern oil-preſs has much the advantage of the antient; and that Cato and Columella are miſtaken, when they maintain that the cruſhing of the ſtone, which likewiſe affords oil, is injurious He has made many experiments, and appears to underſtand the ſubject. His well written tract is entitled—*Memoria intorno a i ſeſſanta due ſaggi diverſi di olio preſentati a la Maeſta di Ferdinando IV. ed eſame critico del antico frantoio trovato a Stabia.* "An account of ſixty-two experiments, "made on oil, and preſented to his Majeſty Ferdinand IV. "with a critical enquiry concerning the antient oil-preſs "diſcovered at Stabia."

They had a lattice door, at top; and, within, ſmall places for food, and water. I ſuſpect that the antients, like the Italians, fed on the little animal which we Germans call ſea pigs*: becauſe they are brought over ſea. It is a kind of medium between the rabbit and the rat; and has the form and the grunt of the pig. Was this the *glis* of the Romans?

Furniture of every kind is found in the apartments. It were to be wiſhed that their forms were more publicly known. You have ſeen the beautiful work, in which engravings are given of the paintings of Herculaneum. The whole Muſeum ought thus to be engraved: yet how great would be the labour, and the length of time it would require! But how few are capable of undertaking ſuch a work! Single figures, accompanied by different quotations from the antient writers, would make many paſſages intelligible; which, through the confuſion of former commentaries, are continually dark.

The bronze veſſels of ſacrifice are of great beauty. How noble and how ſimple are their forms! How elegant the embelliſhments, and frequently how full of meaning! A *lecti-*

* Guinea pigs, I ſuppoſe. T.

ſternium

ſternium of bronze, on which cuſhions for recumbent deities were placed, which were publicly expoſed in times of misfortune, and on which food was put, is wrought and ornamented with truly antique ſimplicity.

The balance with one ſcale, and the balance with two, were equally known to the antients. The weights were ſome of them in the form of the heads of the Emperors. This probably was to denote, in a viſible manner, that they had been examined and proved by the magiſtracy.

A ſlender tripod, of bronze, denotes by its elegance the high value which the Greeks, as early as the time of Homer, ſet upon tripods.

They made their lamps in a thouſand different forms: ſome are very elegant, ſome are obſcene, and many are both. It is natural to give a form that is flattering to the eye, to a piece of furniture which is to afford light. The unfortunate propenſity to the obſcene was equally common among the Greeks and Romans. They had high lights for many of their lamps.

A large collection of ſurgical inſtruments reminded me of thoſe which were diſcovered ſome years ago, in a camp, in the North:—A

prince, who had a lively imagination, endeavoured to make his ſubjects believe, though in vain, that they had been brought by the enemy againſt them as inſtruments of torture.

The faſtenings of the doors appeared to me awkward, and their keys clumſy. The Italian lockſmiths to this day are unſkilful.

The dice, like thoſe of the moderns, were marked with points. Like the dice of gamblers at preſent, ſome of them were heavier on one ſide than on the other.

The tickets of admiſſion to places in the theatre were of ivory, and of various forms. Theſe tickets were called by the Romans *teſſeræ;* and, on one of theſe, there was the name of the tragic poet Æſchylus, in the Greek character: others of them were numbered.

They had various vaſes of glaſs, many cut drinking glaſſes, and little vials of blue glaſs. This is a proof that they were acquainted with different compoſitions of glaſs. Some, of a dark colour, is ſo hard that glaſs may be cut with it, as with a diamond. A glaſs urn, for preſerving the aſhes of a dead perſon, was included in another of *terra-cotta;* and this again was caſed in a third vaſe of lead. Here we ſee likewiſe paintings on glaſs, the colours

of

of which are tranſparent. The panes of glaſs that were found in the villa at Pompeii are exhibited in the Muſeum: they are of very thick glaſs.

The writing deſks of the antients, which we ſaw, reſembled ours. They uſed pens of wood; which, as it appears to me, had no ſlit. That they had been preſerved in glaſs drawers was what I could not ſufficiently examine. We likewiſe ſaw wafers, and wafer-ſeals.

How glad ſhould I have been to have taken the forms of antient agricultural inſtruments, for the information of our Voſs!

The collection of the furniture of the baths is very conſiderable.

Here you find a quantity of wetting and drying utenſils, and cloths.

We ſaw a vaſe, which greatly reſembled our tea-pot: its pleaſing form has already been imitated by the Engliſh.

Another vaſe has the advantage of this, becauſe it cannot eaſily be thrown down: it is of bronze. Round a ſmall ſquare hearth, for coals, a wall runs, which has four corner towers, that may be opened to admit water.

Below,

Below, on the foremoſt wall, is a tube with a ſpout.

A complete ſet of ornaments, for a modern lady, might be collected out of this muſeum: at leaſt for a lady who ſhould be dreſſing for a maſquerade. Here ſhe would find bracelets, and necklaces of gold, ear-rings of pearl, rings for the fingers, and many more baubles.

Paint itſelf would not be wanting: pardon me for uſing the common name, inſtead of the more refined term, *rouge:* for paint itſelf has been preſerved. It was contained in a little box of cryſtal, and has perfectly the appearance of the *rouge* of Paris. My lady here too might find large needles, and combs of ivory, with ivory ſpindles, to deck her out for the maſquerade.

A marble buffet might have been miſtaken for a piece of modern furniture.

A kitchen fire place, diſcovered in Herculaneum, has been uſed as a model of imitation: under it are ſmall arches, to contain the coals; which take but little room, and can heat many veſſels at once. The utenſils of the kitchen are of earth, copper, and braſs.

But little armour has been found: the helmets

helmets are handſome, embelliſhed with figures, but intolerably heavy; which proves they could not have been in common uſe.

A horrid kind of iron fetter, or ſtock, was found. It may be about four ells long; and was ſo formed that ten priſoners might be chained by the leg, each leg ſeparately, by the ſliding of a ſlender bar. Say what we will in defence of the Pagans, they were cruel.

Various kinds of eatables are yet very cognizable: ſuch as dried figs, almonds, walnuts, beans, lentils, pine nuts, thickened oil, and thick red wine: all endeavours to render any of theſe fluid have been vain.

The body of a woman, whoſe ſkull is preſerved, was found among the aſhes. Time, by having conſolidated the aſhes, had evidently occaſioned an impreſſion to be taken of one of her breaſts. She was adorned with golden bracelets, and with a necklace of gold.

Small houſehold Gods, of bronze, are ſome of them of inferior workmanſhip.

Among the gold and copper coins, ſome are very rare.

Cameos, and intaglios, of precious ſtones were found; and likewiſe ſome of glaſs compoſition.

Among

Among the buſts of marble and bronze, there is a fine one of the firſt Scipio Africanus; which we recognize by the wound on the head, and by the reſemblance to thoſe at Rome.

A drunken Faun, and a Mercury ſeated, both of bronze, are of ſingular beauty. The Faun lies ſhouting on a lion's ſkin, with a barrel that ſerves him for a cuſhion. If you cover the under part of the countenance, laughter is ſtill evident in his intoxicated eyes: ſo that thoſe who look muſt likewiſe laugh.

Some of the moſaic works are beautiful; and the two moſt beautiful have the name of the artiſt Διοσκουρίδης Σάμιος ἐποίησε. The work of Dioſcurides, of Samos.

Different ſun dials are very rude: a ſingle crooked hook caſts the ſhade. The time of the day is not denoted by numbers. One, which is very ſmall, has the figure of the hind quarter of a pig; the tail of which, inſtead of the hook, caſts the ſhade.

I have expected the leaſt inſtruction from what others have hoped the moſt: I mean the books. The manner which has been invented of ſeparating the leaves, which were rolled together

together and ſcorched by the aſhes, is very ingenious. You will find the machine that is uſed for unrolling them excellently deſcribed, and drawn, in the Travels of Mr. Bartel *. It is wonderful that they ſhould have done ſo much as has been done. A manuſcript, on the effects of muſic, is in preparation. The conjectures on paſſages, where whole words or letters are wanting, are to be printed in red ink, and ſubjected to the general judgment of the learned. A moral enquiry, concerning virtue and vice, will likewiſe be entirely copied. We ſaw two men employed at preſent: the one on a work on Rhetoric, by one Philodemus; and the other on an enquiry concerning Political Economy.

The number of manuſcripts diſcovered is almoſt ſixteen hundred: they are burnt black; and, were it not for the tender manner in which they are handled, would crumble to aſhes. The antients rolled their manuſcripts ſo that the beginning of the work lay wound up in the middle; and the unrolling muſt commence with the concluſion: ſo that they are obliged at firſt to conjecture the contents, and do not learn the title of the work till the latter

* *Herrn Bartels Reiſen.*

end.

end. The books on which they have hitherto been employed are all of them Greek.

There is a remaining, but in my opinion a well grounded, hope that, by the future uncovering of the buried towns, works may be found, which may either be very little, or perhaps not at all, damaged by the aſhes. Under a board, beneath a tile thrown down, perhaps, lie Alcæus, Sappho, Menander, the loſt books of Livy, or ſome of thoſe immortal works the names of whoſe authors are only known by the teſtimony of their contemporaries.

From this diviſion of the Muſeum, which contains twenty apartments, we proceeded to another, conſiſting of ſixteen, which are dedicated to antient paintings. Some of theſe paintings have ſuffered very much: others are ſtill tolerably freſh.

Different in their degrees of beauty, they are moſt of them drawn with great freedom, and painted with a light animated pencil. Some of them are repreſentations of fruit, fiſh, and birds. Two quails, picking the grain from an ear of barley, are painted with all the deception of truth. A bad choice of ſubject, a want of ſenſibility, and falſe lineal perſpective, are

are the defects of the landſcapes; and, if we may judge after the proofs theſe pictures afford of aërial perſpective, of this the antients appear to have known little or nothing. However, that they were not ſo ignorant of lineal perſpective as many have maintained is evident, from ſome architectural paintings.

The hiſtorical pictures are in part very beautiful.

Chiron, the Centaur; inſtructing the youthful Achilles to play on the lyre.

Oreſtes, Pylades, and Iphigenia; in the temple of Diana, in Tauris.

Theſeus, in the labyrinth. The handſome youth is repreſented after his victory over the Minotaur, which lies extended at his feet. Ariadne is with him; and one of the boys that he has ſaved is kiſſing his hand, and another his leg.

A thoughtful Virgin is all lovelineſs: ſhe is ſuppoſed to be a Sappho. She holds a pencil to her lips, with her right hand; and tablets, in her left.

Telephos, the ſon of Hercules and Auge, ſucking the hind by which he was fed: becauſe his mother had expoſed him from the

fear of her father *. Hercules, the Goddeſs of victory, Νικη, a Faun, and a very noble female figure, which appears to be the Goddeſs Flora, give the picture thoſe charms which reſult from a great and various compoſition. At the foot of the figures ſtand an eagle and a lion; probably as ſymbols of power.

Some figures of Centaurs and Nymphs are touched in a free, light, and charming manner.

A delicate chariot, drawn by a parrot, and driven by a graſshopper. This piece is ſuppoſed to be a ſatire againſt Nero; who made great pretenſions to the double celebrity of a melodious ſinger and an expert charioteer. We are told, by Suetonius, that he exerciſed himſelf lying on his back, ſupporting a plate of lead on his breaſt, purifying himſelf by clyſters and emetics, and abſtaining from fruits; till his voice, always weak and chirping, acquired ſufficient force for the ſtage; which he actually trod at Neapolis, a Greek city. An earthquake which happened did not prevent him from continuing the air he had begun. He likewiſe appeared as a charioteer in the circus

* Pauſan. lib. viii. c. 48 and 54. lib. ix. 31.

at

at Rome*. How excellent is the ſatirical repreſentation of a chirping graſshopper, driving the parrot that draws the chariot!

A Woman ſelling little Cupids to a young lady; behind whom ſtands an old female, who appears to be giving her advice. The woman who ſells holds a fluttering Cupid by the wings; and has another encaged in a tripod. From this piece a French artiſt has no doubt taken the well known idea of his CUPID-SELLER.

Four little pictures, which are excellent, were found framed, and ſeparate; not like thoſe that are painted on the walls.

A poet compoſing. If I do not miſtake, he holds a thyrſus in his hand. A Muſe is ſeated at a table, writing, with a maſk lying by her. The thyrſus, as well as the maſk, may denote that it was the dramatic Muſe by which he was inſpired: for dramatic pieces were dedicated to Bacchus.

A company of people playing on muſical inſtruments.

A young woman, ſtanding; with her treſſes combed by her companion: a third is ſitting

* Suet. in Vita Neron. c. xx and xxii.

in the ſame chamber, and near her ſtands a fourth. They are all handſome, and elegantly attired.

The above are three of the four pictures I mentioned: the other is very much injured.

The new model of the theatre at Herculaneum is worthy notice; for it will afford an excellent idea of the theatres of the antients. I ſhould have willingly ſent you a drawing of it; but this is not permitted, of any thing contained in the Muſeum. The curioſity of the public is endeavoured to be kept intent on the great work, the publication of which is patroniſed by the king.

All the rarities of this Muſeum, which are ſingular in their kind, are intended to be removed by his majeſty's orders into a large building, which he has purchaſed of the Univerſity. This building is in the city, and called *Gli Studi*. In fact, this noble collection is too much expoſed to the danger of being once more buried by Mount Veſuvius.

LET-

LETTER LXXIV.

Naples, 31ſt March 1792.

ENCHANTING as the proſpect of the ſea and the coaſt is, the want of ſhady walks in Naples ſtill is ſenſibly felt. The public walk on the ſea ſhore, which is about ſeven hundred paces long, affords but a ſorry ſhelter againſt the mid-day beams. It is very broad; and, on the two ſides, there are high bowers of vines, that twine their branches round the elm of Ypres: which trees do not ſtand detached, but are connected by palings.

On the ſide which is the moſt diſtant from the ſea, there are little orange trees, and oleanders; among beds of flowers, nearer to the ſea, there are graſs plats, cut and carved in a wretched taſte; among which little fountains throw out their inſignificant ſtreams.

I ſeldom viſit this walk, which is called *Villa Reale;* and which, from its proſpect toward the ſea, its circular and hilly coaſt from Portici to Maſſa, with its view of the iſland of Capri, and the Poſilipo, would perhaps be the

moſt beautiful public walk in Europe, if it were but ſhaded by trees that ſhould be ſuffered to grow undiſturbed. The Neapolitans find an excuſe for this defect, which is pointed out to them by the frequent complaints of foreigners; and allege that the growth of trees is injured by the ſea air. It ſeems remarkable that this noxious quality of the ſea air, at leaſt in ſo great a degree, ſhould exiſt only near the city of Naples: however, this appears to be the caſe. Even of the two rows of vine bowers of the *Villa Reale*, that which is moſt diſtant from the ſea flouriſhes much the beſt.

The parade, for the exerciſe of the troops, lies beyond the *Villa Reale;* and likewiſe on the ſea ſhore. From this a road turns ſhort to the right, and leads to the grotto of the Poſilipo. On the left the ſea ſhore continues; where, every afternoon, the principal Neapolitans have their *Corſo:* that is, their carriages proceed backward and forward in rows, from which they ſhew themſelves without being able to ſpeak to each other; unleſs when a lady orders her coach to ſtop, and the polite cavalier alights from his own, and comes to converſe with her on the ſtep of her carriage.

The bulwark on the ſea is broad, is paved with flags of lava like the pavement of the whole city, and ſerves as a foot path for paſſengers; to whom, from the number of the coaches and horſes, it is very welcome.

At the end of the *Corſo*, I was glad to eſcape, through the gateway of a large building, from the din of this ſilent aſſembly. This brought me immediately on the ſea ſhore; and, from thence, to the volcanic rocks of the extended lofty cape, Poſilipo. Here you enjoy not only the ſame proſpect as in the *Villa Reale*, but you likewiſe have a full view of all Veſuvius, which there was concealed by the houſes.

At this place you come to a large unfiniſhed palace, which the people call the palace of Queen Johanna: probably after the infamous Johanna the Second, who lived in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. We are told by an inſcription that it was begun in the laſt century, and left unfiniſhed, by one *Donna Anna Caraffa*.

Since that time, the ſea no doubt muſt have intruded farther on the ſhore: for this palace, at preſent, is not only impaſſable by all kinds of carriages, but likewiſe at high water by foot paſſengers. I conjecture that this ele-

ment, in return for the loſs it ſuſtained in the eaſt by the building of the Molo, during the reign of the late King, has revenged itſelf upon the weſt; as it now waſhes the palace walls. Fiſhermen keep their boats within the long gate; and the ſmall ſpace within and without the gate is rocky and uneven.

My walk was ſoon afterward interrupted by a public priſon. Between the palace and the priſon, immediately on the deep ſhore of the ſea, the rocks are covered with a kind of white moſs: or more properly a kind of immoveable ſea weed, on which it is very pleaſant to repoſe. This weed has a charming odour, and the ſea is as clear as cryſtal.

I lately ſaw, at a tolerable diſtance, ſome meſhes of a net ſunk in the ſea, with the fiſh living and moving in the water. The varieties of ſhell fiſh, which are thrown up by the ſea, are innumerable; and ſome of them are very excellent *. One of the creatures ofteneſt

* Signor Poli, the teacher of the Royal Princes of Naples in Natural Hiſtory, has publiſhed an excellent work, called, *Teſtacea utriuſque Siciliæ, eorumque Hiſtoria et Anatome.* This work, not only for external beauty, but chiefly for the novelty of its diſcoveries, and its enquiries concerning the mode of living of theſe beings, whoſe

oftenest found is the *echinus marinus;* or sea urchin. Its shell is armed with thin long prickles. Horace, in an ode to Canidia, compares the hair of one of the handmaids of this horrible sorceress to such a sea urchin.

At expedita Segana, per totam domum
Spargens avernales aquas,
Horret capillis ut marinus asperis
Echinus, aut currens aper.

HOR. Epod. v. 25.

Now Sagana, round the cell,
Sprinkled her waters, black from hell:
Fierce as sea porcupine, or boar,
In frightful wreaths, her hair she wore!

FRANCIS.

The flesh of this *echinus*, or sea urchin, is red; and agreeable to the taste.

Mosses of great variety and beauty grow on the rocks, in and about the sea; and, in these mosses, some of which are of a purple colour, swarms of different little beings are seen.

If you go from the *Villa Reale* on the east side, and wish to continue on the sea shore, you must long make your way through the noisy crowd of this populous city, before you arrive at the open field beyond the Magdalen

whose existence does not appear to be so limited as has been hitherto imagined, is probably the best of its kind.

bridge,

bridge, over the river Sebetho. The *Corſo* is held on this ſide every Friday, during Lent. Along the city and as far as the bridge, the Neapolitans here diſplay themſelves, in their fine carriages, with all their pomp; and are frequently drawn by eight horſes. On the common *Corſo*, which is on the quay called *Chiaia* on the weſt ſide of the city, they harneſs only two horſes to their carriages. The fruitful fields that lie between Mount Veſuvius and Capua, which are covered with grain, trees, and vineyards, are ſeen to the left from the Magdalen bridge. Virgil, wiſhing to deſcribe a very fruitful country, thus ſpeaks:

Illa tibi lætis intexet vitibus ulmos,
Illa ferax oleo eſt, illam experiere colendo
Et facilem pecori et patientem vomeris unci.
Talem dives arat Capua, et vicina Veſevo
Ora jugo ———————

VIRG. Georg. ii. 221.

——————— whoſe mold is clean,
Well cloth'd with cheerful graſs, and evergreen,
Is good for olives, and aſpiring vines,
Embracing huſband elms in am'rous twines;
Is fit for feeding cattle, fit to ſow,
And equal to the paſture and the plough.
Such is the ſoil of fat Campanian fields,
Such large increaſe the land that joins Veſuvius yields.

DRYDEN, v. 299.

Near

Near the city, on both ſides, are kitchen gardens; the fertility of which is enlivening: but you find no trees among them. Theſe gardens are watered by a kind of mills, the water for which is ſupplied by the royal reſervoirs at Portici; and, for the permiſſion to uſe this water, the proprietors of the land are obliged to pay a heavy tax.

Volatile and light hearted as theſe people are, and addicted to the purſuit of pleaſure, they nevertheleſs cultivate their fruitful fields with great induſtry. The ſoil of the city is not thrown away: for the huſbandmen very carefully gather it, and carry it away on loaded aſſes. The lands are kept as free from weeds as in other countries. That many of the country people are poor I aſcribe, in part, to the bad regulations here; among which I include the tax paid for watering their grounds: and, in part, to the ſmall number of landholders; who let out ſmall portions of their eſtates for a few years to farmers, vineyard keepers, or gardeners. The compact is made by public auction; and it frequently happens that the higheſt bidder, with all his induſtry, is a ruined man. It is not ſo much the want of freedom,

as

as has ſo often been affirmed, as the want of more land proprietors, that principally oppreſſes the greateſt part of the country people.

Yeſterday, in order to viſit ſome ſhady places, we went through the Poſilipo grotto, along the road toward Pozzuoli; and already, on the 23d of March, we repoſed in flowery meadows, under green poplars, on the banks of the lake Agnano! Yeſterday, we already ſaw the young buddings of the walnut tree! Whole fields are ſowed with a kind of trefoil; which the Italians call *prato*. The ear of this graſs, *trifolium, ſpica oblonga, rubra* *, is long, with a vivid red flower; and is perhaps more ornamental to meadows than any other. This trefoil is here preferred to every other kind of paſturage. It is already mowed for the firſt time. Our red, white, and yellow, trefoils are likewiſe very common here: though the yellow trefoil is much larger here than in our country. The high red trefoil, like the others, here grows wild. In dry ſoils, the plant does not grow to a great height; but near the earth: like the *melilotus*, with its yellow flower, the figure of which it much reſembles: with this

* *Dietrichs Pflanzenreich*, 1775, 2 *th. f.* 892.

difference

difference that the *prato* blows with a kind of ear; otherwiſe you might be inclined to call it the red *melilotus*.

I yeſterday ſaw ſweet peas (or vetches) cut, that were as high as my breaſt; they principally ſerve as fodder for cows.

The wheat in theſe countries has broad leaves; and horſes here, as in many parts of Germany, are turned to paſture in it, to prevent its too luxurious growth. For the ſame reaſon, ſheep are ſuffered to crop its firſt ſhoots.

Flax is now covered with large buds.

There are fruit trees over all theſe fields: the mulberry already is loaded with buds; and the apricot, peach, and plum, are now in bloom: nay more, nature not only is early in bloom but long ſo continues to be.

Orange and lemon trees are ſtill covered with fruit: although they have been plucked through the whole winter. Here you ſee the ripe fruit; and, at a little diſtance, the odoriferous flower.

The air is aromatic, and the ſweetneſs of ſpring now equals ours in the month of May; which with us is frequently even then repulſed, and ſuddenly checked, like the tender careſſes of a kind wife, by our rude climate.

Among

Among the flowers of the field which I never ſaw before, I found the lovely red *cyclamen:* likewiſe the yellow, and the red and yellow *cerinthe:* or honey-ſuckle: which alſo blows wild in winter.

How many flowers might here be enumerated! and, while wandering in this garden of God, how often do I regret my ignorance of Botany! I forget no kind of flower, or of tree, that I have once ſeen; and I ſhould leſs regret the ignorance of their names, did it not prevent me from communicating much of my pleaſure to you.

Oh communication, what enchantment is thine; ſince thou canſt give life to the dead letter of a nomenclature!

LETTER LXXV.

Naples, 5th April 1792.

I, and my wife, on the firſt of the month, made a ſhort journey to Averſa. When we travelled from Rome, we made a circuit to viſit

viſit the amphitheatre of ancient Capua, and the aqueduct of Caſerta, and did not paſs through Averſa; though it lies on the great high road, in a fruitful country, and pleaſantly ſituated among arable lands, gardens, and vineyards.

This very ancient town was founded by the *Oſci;* who called it *Atella.* The people were famous for their dramatic productions, which early afforded ſuch great pleaſure to the youth of Rome, that they performed the comedies called *Fabulæ Atellanæ*, themſelves, for their private diverſion: nor would they ſuffer them to be degraded by the acting of the common players. According to the teſtimony of Livy, when theſe pieces afterward came to be performed like others by the actors, thoſe who acted them enjoyed a degree of reſpect, which was denied to the ordinary comedians*. The latter were exempted from the tribes, and from military ſervice: but not the former. In later times, the drama of the *Atellani* degenerated ſo much that even Tiberius accuſed them of licentiouſneſs in the Senate; and a decree was paſſed by which they were prohibited in Italy †.

* Liv. vii. 2. † Tac. Annal iv. 14.

Atella

Atella was deſtroyed by the Barbarians, who overran theſe countries. It was rebuilt by the Normans; and Guiſcard their Duke, by whom it was conſiderably enlarged, gave it the name of Averſa: becauſe it was erected as a bulwark againſt Naples.

It was once more laid in ruins by Charles of Anjou: but was ſoon afterward once again rebuilt.

Here, as is general in the province of *Terra di Lavoro*, many people live by the culture of gardens: for which they pay high rents to the ground landlord. We went into one of theſe gardens; which was about two hundred and fifty paces long, and two hundred broad, and in which there was a ſmall houſe, inhabited by a young married couple, whoſe whole wealth conſiſted of an aſs. The yearly rent of theſe good people, for this garden, was a hundred and twenty-five Neapolitan ducats; or about a hundred and thirty-four rix dollars, at the rate of five rix dollars to a piſtole.

The garden was full of vegetables, and fruit trees, that were then in full bloom. Nothing but the pears and fennel, which is a pleaſant vegetable and eaten raw, are brought to Naples;

Naples*; the reſt of the produce of the garden is ſold in Averſa.

As the land in this country is fruitful through the whole year, a garden like this employs many day labourers. Make an eſtimate of wages, of the maintenance of the tenants, and of the rent they pay to the ground landlord, and you will be ſurpriſed at the gains that proceed from a garden, which is two leagues and a half diſtant from the Metropolis. The gardens in the vicinity of Naples muſt be ſtill more productive. The road that leads from Portici to the city is always full of aſſes; which are loaded with the fruits of the garden as they go, and with manure as they return. I ſaw to-day numberleſs men going to market, with baſkets full of flowers.

Three hundred and ten Neapolitan ducats are paid to the King, by a herdſman, who keeps from ſeventeen to twenty cows, for permiſſion to graze on the charming banks of the lake of Agnano; and, when the air begins to be unhealthy there, on ſome other royal paſture.

* The text reads, "*Fenchel, ein angenehmes gemüſe :*" I ſuſpect that *Fenchel-apfel*, which is a ſpecies of apple, is underſtood. T.

Let us return for a moment to the gardens of Averſa, where my wife ſat for ſome hours, till the approach of twilight, among verdure, flowers, and fruits, ſuch as are the produce of ſpring in Italy. We did not return till it was late; and, in the forenoon of the next day, ſhe was delivered of my little Sibylla as eaſily as a Neapolitan.

This morning, Erneſt, I, and Nicolovius, took a boat, and went to the iſland of Niſida; which is ſeparated from the point of Poſilipo by a ſmall ſound. This iſland is a tolerably high and very fruitful hill. The olive is the principal ſupport of the inhabitants: though they likewiſe grow flowers, and vegetables. Pliny informs us that the ancients eſteemed the wild aſparagus of this iſland as the beſt. I alſo met with much wild aſparagus, in the parts near Pozzuoli. The fennel, in great quantities, grows wild in Niſida: as do many of our garden flowers. We found the beautiful Iris already in bloom; which Voſs ſuppoſes to be the *Hyacinthus* of the ancients. We likewiſe met with wild vines.

Rabbits here are in ſuch great numbers as to be injurious to the inhabitants.

A ſepulchral lamp was found here, in the

grave of a Roman. We are told it burnt, and that the light was clear, in a glaſs vial, which was hermetically ſealed; and that it was extinguiſhed the moment the glaſs was broken.

The Greeks named this iſland *Neſis*, Νησις, or little iſland. The whole bay of Naples, and a part of the bay of Gaeta, may be ſeen from its top. Brutus remained here for ſome time after the death of Cæſar, and was viſited by Cicero*.

LETTER LXXVI.

Naples, 9th April 1792.

THIS day, I went to Nola, which is ſituated about two long German miles to the north of Naples, and met with a very fertile and well cultivated country; ſuch as is found through all the *Terra di Lavoro*. Vegetables and corn grow intermingled; and the field vine winds itſelf round the poplar, and the mulberry tree. This laſt tree is remarkably

* Cic. ad Attic. xvi. epiſt. i.

large, near Nola. The ſituation of this little town is delightful; eſpecially at preſent, amid the tender buds of ſpring.

It is melancholy to meet with ſo few birds in Italy: the reaſon is ſo many of them are ſhot. Each man is ready with his gun: even the day labourer has his loaded fowling piece, ſtanding againſt a tree. In the market-place in Rome, we frequently ſee the goldfinch, and other ſinging birds, which are purchaſed in great quantities to eat.

About half a German mile from Naples, on the road to Nola, are the ruins of the palace *Poggio Reale;* or King's Hill; which was inhabited by Queen Johanna the Second. She is accuſed of having contrived a trap-fall, in this palace. The ſtory is that, when ſhe was weary of her lovers, ſhe plunged them by this means into the water; and thus this cruel, treacherous, and voluptuous, Queen endeavoured at once to bury the ſhame and the remembrance of guilt in this gulph.

Fountains are met with on both ſides of the way, between this caſtle and Naples. The high road, like moſt of thoſe that I have travelled in Italy, is very good. On this ſide of the Alps, you have never any turnpikes to pay;

as

as you ſo frequently have in Germany, and in the northern parts of our country; and not ſeldom for roads that are almoſt impaſſable.

The rye near Nola is high in ear. This kind of grain is ſcarce in Italy: it was probably firſt introduced by the Emperor Charles the Fifth. It is called *grano Germano;* or German corn; and the people here, as in France, mix the flower of rye and the flower of wheat.

Cluverius proves *, from a paſſage in Velleius Paterculus, that the town of Nola is of elder date by eight-and-forty years than Rome; and that it was founded eight hundred and one years before the birth of Chriſt, and, according to the ſame Velleius, by the Etrurians.

Others ſay it was founded by the Greeks; from Chalcis in Eubœa. Some ſcarce coins of this town bear Greek inſcriptions; and theſe coins and the multitude of Grecian vaſes, which are found here, equally denote that it has been inhabited by Greeks. It is only from error that the epithet of Etruſcan vaſes has been given to veſſels, which were ſeldom found in Etruria, but principally in the ſepulchres of *Grecia Magna* and *Sicilia.*

* Cluv. Ital. Ant.

I saw a famous collection of these vases, which was made by Don Piedro Virenzio. Except that of Sir William Hamilton in Naples, it is the finest collection possessed by any private person.

The vases found in Nola are esteemed to be the most beautiful in Italy: though those of Sicily are thought preferable. The Romans placed some value on these vases in the time of Cæsar. Suetonius informs us * that, some months before the death of Cæsar, a Romish colony, which had been sent to Capua, destroyed several tombs in order to build country houses: which work, says the historian, they performed the more diligently because they found some vases of ancient workmanship.

In the collection of Don Piedro Virenzio, I saw a particular kind of earthen urn, which was entirely in the form of a saddle. The corps had been laid in the hollow, probably to denote that it was the body of a valiant warrior. The horse-tamer ἱπποδαμος and the horse-driver ἱππηλατης are common epithets for heroes, among the Greek poets, and particularly Homer.

* Suet. in Vita Julii, cap. 18.

This

This town is frequently mentioned, in the Hiſtory of the Second Punic War. It was allied to the Romans: and, after the battle of Cannæ, the Senate and principal perſons of Nola remained faithful to their allies: but the people inclined to the Carthaginians*. However there were not wanting ſome of the chiefs, who cheriſhed the pride and the hope of being the allies of Hannibal. Among theſe was a courageous knight, Lucius Bantius by name, who after the battle of Cannæ was found by Hannibal under heaps of ſlain. The great general, who left no means unemployed that might induce the people of Italy to deſert the Romans, cauſed him to be carefully attended, and not only ſuffered him to depart without ranſom, but gave him preſents. From this time Bantius became devoted to Hannibal, and endeavoured to excite his fellow citizens to revolt.

Marcellus was informed of, though he did not appear to remark, the intentions of the youth; and, calling him to him, ſpoke in this friendly manner:

"It appears that many of your townſmen "are unjuſt to you; for no perſon of Nola

* Liv. xxiii. c. 14, 15.

" has related to me your noble warlike deeds:
" but it was not poſſible to conceal from me
" the valour of a man who has fought in the
" Roman army. From many of your fellow
" warriors have I heard what kind of man you
" are; and how frequent and eminent have
" been the dangers you have incurred, for
" the ſafety and dignity of the Roman peo-
" ple: how, bleeding and exhauſted, you were
" almoſt cruſhed to death under heaps of
" arms, horſes, and men. Continue worthy
" of yourſelf. The praiſe and the recom-
" penſe due to valour ſhall be beſtowed by
" me; and you ſhall be taught that the of-
" tener you are with me the greater ſhall be
" the rewards and the honours that you ſhall
" ſhare."

Marcellus accompanied theſe kind words with a preſent in money, and a fine horſe; and likewiſe ordered the lictors to admit him, whenever he ſhould pay him a viſit.

From this time, Rome had no friend more ſerviceable, or more faithful, than Bantius.

Soon afterward, the Romans and Carthaginians came to a battle, before the gates of this town; in which Marcellus obtained a conſiderable advantage.

After the victory, the Romans entered the town, ſhut all the gates, placed watch guards, held tribunals, and decapitated above ſeventy of the citizens; who were convicted of having entered into a ſecret correſpondence with Hannibal.

How unfortunate were theſe times, the falſe glory of which is ſo dazzling! Marcellus was by nature a benevolent man: but here he acted in conformity to the manners of his age. The Grecian and Roman hiſtories are full of ſtill greater miſeries, inflicted on places over which a victorious General has ſat as judge, armed with the ſanguinary axe. We ſhudder while we read, in Thucydides, how, in the Peloponneſian war, in which this hiſtorian took part as a General, the burghers of the Greek cities, that were democratically inclined, were perſecuted by the Spartans; and thoſe that favoured Oligarchy by the Athenians.

The number of Greeks that were publicly ſold as ſlaves, by Paulus Æmilius, who like Marcellus was one of the moſt benevolent of the Romans, was prodigious*.

A year after this firſt advantage over Han-

* Plut. Life of Æm.

nibal,

nibal, Marcellus again vanquiſhed him, before the gates of Nola, in a greater battle * ; in which the fortune of war began to change. More than five thouſand Carthaginians remained on the field, ſix hundred were made priſoners, and this deciſive victory did not coſt the Romans a thouſand men.

Auguſtus died in Nola ; and, if I do not miſtake, Agrippa, two years before him, expired there. He was a great man, and was worthy of a better age. However he merits our eſteem, for having leſſened the misfortunes of his time. He was a man of a noble mind, and not only the friend of Auguſtus but the friend of freedom. Rome was principally indebted to him, and to the worthy Valerius Meſſala, the friend of Brutus, for the change that was produced in Auguſtus ; who, from a blood thirſty tyrant, became a wiſe ruler.

When Auguſtus conceived, or rather pretended to conceive, the thought of reſtoring the antient freedom of the republic, Agrippa adviſed him to purſue this plan : but Mæcenas, a man neither poſſeſſed of his wiſdom nor his virtue, adviſed the contrary. Yet was Mæcenas in the right. Political chimeras are

* Liv. xxiii. c. 44.

innu-

innumerable: but the moſt chimerical of all is the project of imagining that a people, deeply ſunk in degeneracy, are capable of recovering the ancient grandeur of freedom. Who toſſes the bird into the air after his wings are clipped? So far from reſtoring it to the power of flight, it will but diſable it more.

It is rather generally believed that bells were firſt invented in Nola; and it is true that the Latin name for a bell is *nola*. Thoſe however place the period of diſcovery too late that aſcribe it to Saint Paulinus, who was Biſhop of Nola in the fifth century. He might probably introduce the uſe of them in churches. Large and ſmall bells were well known to the ancients. Of the latter, in the Muſeum of Portici, I have ſeen ſuch as are now uſed in mountainous diſtricts, to hang round the necks of cattle, goats, and ſheep. Mention is made of bells by the Greek and Roman writers; and, among others, by Æſchylus, and Ariſtophanes: and Æſchylus lived a thouſand years before Paulinus. The Romans may probably enough have procured their firſt bells from Nola, and therefore may have named them after the town: or it is not impro-

improbable that the bells of Nola were diſtinguiſhable by the clearneſs of the ſound they gave.

LETTER LXXVII.

Naples, 19th April 1792.

ON the 14th, Nicolovius, Erneſt, and myſelf, went on board a felucca manned by eight ſeamen. The weather was fine, but the wind was contrary; and we were three hours and a half in rowing to the iſland of Procida. We paſſed near the Poſilipo, leaving Niſida on the right, and ſailed immediately under the promontory of Miſenum.

Like all the iſlands of theſe parts, Procida has a high and in general a rocky ſhore. We landed at the little town of Procida, which we found ſwarming with people and traders. Tolerably large veſſels are built here; and the port is in greater activity than might have been expected, from ſo ſmall a place.

The

Drawn by C. Hackaert

View of a rocky Valley near Sorrento

Letter LXXVII

Designed after Nature by F. Ribbon

Grotta di Matrimonio in the Island of Capri

Lett. LXXVII

The iſlands of Procida and Iſchia were peopled by the Greeks of Chalcis, and Eretria: two towns of the iſland of Eubœa, now Negroponte. Its name, *Procida*, or *Procita*, is either derived from the word πρηχθσα, the projecting, or προχυλα, the projected. It was the opinion of ancient writers that it had once been united with Iſchia; which they likewiſe called *Pithecuſa*, *Æneria*, and *Inarimæ*; and that they had been ſeparated from each other by an earthquake.

This iſland formerly belonged to John of Procida, who lived in the thirteenth century; and who, after he had ſtirred up Spain and Conſtantinople, againſt Charles of Anjou, was the author of the famous conſpiracy againſt the French, in Sicily: the meaſures of which were taken with ſo much precaution, entered into with ſuch wonderful ſecrecy, and executed with ſuch unheard of boldneſs. The bell which, on the third day of Eaſter, in the year 1282, called the people to veſpers was the ſignal, through the whole iſland, for the murder of the French; whoſe paſt exceſſes could afford no excuſe either for maſſacre, or for undiſtinguiſhing and univerſal vengeance. The only man that eſcaped aſſaſſination, and whoſe

whoſe virtue well merited the diſtinction, was William of Porcelets*.

Juſt as we landed, we perceived a man on an aſs, in the middle of the market place. His habit and appearance we thought comic: they reminded us of the gentlemen bachelors with whom Le Sage, in Gil Blas, and his much greater maſter, Cervantes, in Don Quixote, had brought us acquainted. Under a veil, which to us had ſomething of the ridiculous, traits of the nobleſt benevolence were diſcoverable. The people in numbers crowded round him; while he diſtributed alms to the poor, converſed with them, and appeared accuſtomed to beſtow upon them nobler gifts: thoſe of council and remonſtrance.

We went up to the royal caſtle, which is ſituated high above the town, and which poſſeſſes a ſimple pleaſant garden; where the King, that he may enjoy the country ſports, has cover for pheaſants. Theſe birds already are in brood: though I have ſeen finer in many parts of Germany, and particularly in Bohemia.

The pheaſants fly over the whole iſland; which has given occaſion to a rigorous and

* See a note to Letter lxi. vol. ii. p. 394. T.

unjuſt

unjuſt law, by which the inhabitants are forbidden to keep cats: and rats and mice are ſo numerous that the very children in the cradle are not ſafe. The afflicted people ſent deputies to the King, and humbly petitioned for the repeal of this law. Dogs likewiſe are now prohibited in the iſland.

This little country is a garden; fertile in fruits and vegetables, and exceedingly populous. In the afternoon, we went to the other ſide of the iſland, and waited for our felucca in a ſmall bay, between high promontories. The ſteep ſhores here conſiſt of the *tofus*, *tufa*, or ſand ſtone, are exceedingly forked, craggy, and hollow, and every where diſcover, along the ſtrand, tokens of fiery waves, appearances of its volcanic origin, and ſuch as confirm the opinion of the ancients, that Procida and Iſchia were once the ſame iſland.

Some roads, and the ſtreets of the little town, are paved with lava.

Procida is a long German mile in circumference. Between the promontory of St. Margaret in Procida, and the iſland of Iſchia, though much the neareſt to Procida, the high little iſland of Vivara is ſituated; which, though uninhabited, is cultivated by the people

ple of Procida. The King has a hunting ſeat here, for the chace of the hare.

The largeſt and moſt beautiful of theſe iſlands is Iſchia; which at firſt has a gentle and then a ſteep aſcent, to the ſummit of the lofty and the formerly volcanic mountain, Epomeus. It is ſeen to a great diſtance; while its fantaſtic forms charm and diverſify the proſpect: ſo that it appears to be the centre of the ſurrounding paradiſe; the iſlands and ſhores of which ſeem to decorate and do it homage.

A high rock riſes in the ſea toward Procida; which is embelliſhed with a little town, and many trees, and in which the Biſhop of Iſchia reſides. On the top of the rock a ſtrong fortreſs is built, in which a garriſon is ſtationed, and from which fortreſs the rock is called *Caſtello d' Iſchia.* The rock is connected with the iſland by a long bridge; which aids in forming the haven of the lively *Borgo d' Iſchia*, or ſuburbs of Iſchia, that are built on the iſland, and ſo called after the ſmall town on the rock. The Borgo d' Iſchia is well built, and ſtands immediately on the ſea ſhore.

We arrived early enough to ſee the ſun go down over the *Lago del Re:* or King's lake.

Here

Here there are warm baths, which are viſited by the principal people of Naples. Conveniencies are wanting to this place: the houſes are few, and ſmall, and the bathers muſt bring their own bathing veſſels. The warm ſpring runs into the lake; which contains ſalt water, and is connected with the ſea, by a canal.

The canal is provided with floodgates; the opening of which into this little lake, that reſembles the Lucrine lake in its form, ſupplies it from time to time with freſh ſea water, and quantities of large fiſh. The King amuſes himſelf occaſionally at this fiſhery.

There is a broad bed of lava near this lake, which in the year 1301 guſhed out of the foot of Epomeus. Although five centuries have elapſed ſince the laſt eruption from the mountain, the face of the lava is almoſt entirely barren; being thinly ſcattered with *mauerpfeffer* *, and graſs. The lava emitted by Mount Veſuvius, in the year 1767, is already more covered with vegetation: ſo different is one kind of lava from another, and thus obſcure are theſe annals of nature, when their dates are unknown to hiſtory. The remem-

* Literally, wall pepper. I cannot diſcover what plant is meant. T.

brance of the desolating fire still lives among the islanders: the country people relate that it destroyed a little town.

The Greek inhabitants were early terrified by these dreadful phenomena; and, forsaking the island, settled on the continent, where they built the town of Cumæ. A repose of five hundred years appears to afford an assurance of safety, to the people of Ischia; who now enjoy the advantage of volcanic countries, healing baths, and extraordinary fertility, without the dread of future destruction.

On the 15th, we set out early, mounted on asses, and rode first to *Casamiccia*, the place where the warm springs are: though there are more warm springs in the island, and of various medicinal qualities. There is a large building in *Casamiccia*, the name of which is *Monte di Misericordia*, where six hundred poor patients are annually relieved, bathed, taken care of, and fed, for a fortnight each, from a fund of legacies and presents, that have been bestowed by private persons. The building is large and well constructed; and the court is shaded by high mulberry trees. The necessities of the poor are but too frequently neglected: here the case is otherwise. The necessaries provided

provided for the baths of the poor are very much better than thoſe of the baths of the rich at the *Lago del Re.*

We again mounted our aſſes, and rode to Lacco: a little town which is poſſeſſed of a port, in which there is a rock, that riſes out of the waves, in the form of a muſhroom. Round the ſtalk of the muſhroom there are large ſtones lying; to which, inſtead of riding at anchor, the veſſels are tied with ropes.

We ſpent our noon in *Furia d' Iſchia;* which conteſts the honour of being the chief place of the iſland with the *Caſtello d' Iſchia.* Furia is ſituated on the weſt ſide of Iſchia, on a cape.

All the places that they call towns are built on the ſea ſhore; along which we ſometimes rode, and ſometimes left it to paſs through blooming valleys, or over hills, from the tops of which we could again ſee the coaſt. The iſland is charming in the higheſt degree. Here a far projecting rock is connected with the land by a ſlender cape; and there detached cliffs tower above the waves. Each form ſeems caſt with a bold yet playful hand; and every moment affords a various proſpect. Theſe heights are planted with vineyards, after the manner of the Germans. In every valley, the

ſucculent vine entwines itſelf round the ſlender poplar, or caſts its arms over the knotty mulberry tree, and luxuriantly ſprouts from ſtem to ſtem. Among them the pulpy fig profuſely grows; and large plum and cherry trees are now in full bloom. With the aromatic ſweets of the flowering orange and citron, the delightful odour of the pear intermingles, or the beautiful red bud of the apple tree. Fruit of the ſize of a cherry already is ſeen, on the large apricot tree; and the peach, like the reſt, is in bloom. The orange and lemon trees were ſtill heavily loaded, among the deep cliffs, with ripe fruit: while, as we turned, trees of the very ſame kind, growing on the ſunny hills, regaled us with the odour of their white flowery branches.

Different beauties will ſoon embelliſh the iſland: for ſoon the pomegranate will begin to blow, then the oleander, and, which is here equally common, the aloe: the prickly plants of which ſerve as hedges, or grow wild in company with the Indian fig, that rears its branches among the craggy rocks.

Never before did I behold ſuch varieties of bloom! Never before was I regaled with the aromatic ſweets of ſo many rich ſhrubs! Numerous

merous flowers ſpring up, in this fortunate climate, which are rarely ſeen by us, or of which we only have a tranſitory glimpſe: flowers and plants that here are nouriſhed in the boſom of a mild mother, and befriended by beams that animate but do not ſcorch; ſoftened as they are by the pureneſs of the air, and the cooling breezes of the ſea, through which they paſs; and protected as the fruits and flowers are, in ſhady valleys and among deep rocky cliffs, by the ſprings and rills of which they are watered. Even the wild red ranunculus, which is ſeen blowing through the whole winter in Rome, among the ruins of antiquity, is ſtill here in blow; and ſtill the late primroſe, and the violet, are budding in company with the early roſe.

Sôme few ſmall fields only of this iſland are allotted to grain: the ſoil is employed to greater advantage in the cultivation of vegetables. The inhabitants of this incredibly populous little iſland have ſcarcely any meadow land. The profitable aſs relieves them from the neceſſity of breeding horſes; and the abſence of the cow is ſupplied by the goat, which animal finds on the luxuriant aromatic cliffs paſture that gives the milk an excellent taſte. The

ſheep feeds in company with the goat. Of ducks and geeſe, of which there are few through all Italy, I ſaw none in Iſchia.

In ſome places, freſh water is ſcarce; and the rain is collected in ciſterns, the water of which is eſteemed in proportion to its age, as it continually becomes more pure. If I do not miſtake, it was in Furia, at leaſt in one of the towns, that they recommended water which was three years old, as we ſhould recommend wine for its age: nor were they miſtaken, for the water was excellent. Their wine would be equally good, were it equally long kept. It reſembles, in colour, the dark madeira; of that kind which has a caſt of red.

From complaiſance rather than from curioſity, we ſuffered our landlord to take us to a chapel, of the magnificence of which he loudly vaunted. It was in truth rather rich than beautiful, and wholly incruſted with yellow variegated marble. There is a beautiful ſtatue, of white marble, in the ſacriſty, of Religion, delicately veiled. Her charming countenance is known at the firſt glance; and the deception of art is ſo great that the ſpectator is almoſt tempted to lift up the veil. At the bottom is inſcribed *Religio pura et immaculata:*

Pure religion and undefiled *. There is a well executed baſſo relievo, on the pedeſtal; which repreſents the leading of Eleazer to death, becauſe he refuſed to diſobey the command of God †. The devout old man is exhorting the Jews, by whom he is ſurrounded. This beautiful ſtatue is the work of Giuſeppe Sanmartino; a ſculptor of Naples, who is ſtill living, and by whom I have ſeen ſeveral excellent performances in one of the churches of Naples.

The pictures of this chapel are vile, except a John the Baptiſt, by Vaccari, of Naples; which had been preſented to the owner of the chapel, by Sir William Hamilton.

We were intending to depart, when our guide inſiſted that we ſhould go with him into a chamber, belonging to the chapel. *Adeſſo vi faró veder un' altra galanteria:* I will now ſhew you another mark of kindneſs, ſaid he. We followed him, and ſaw the owner of the family chapel, whoſe name is Don Pietro Regine, and who likewiſe performed the office of prieſt. He was in bed indiſpoſed of a cold, was a handſome old man with a mild countenance, and gave us a friendly

* James i. 27. † II Maccabees chap. vi. 18.

reception. I aſked him whether he would not do well to viſit the baths of the iſland; and he anſwered, with the pride of a good conſtitution, which well becomes an aged perſon, "I never take any remedy."

While we were converſing with him, the attendants opened a ſhrine; which was partly in the bed chamber, and partly in another room, and the riches of which were uncommonly great, for a private chapel. Among other valuable works in the noble metals, part of which were ornamented with precious ſtones, it contained three buſts of maſſy ſilver, as large as life.

The old gentleman took great pleaſure in diſplaying all this wealth. Some calm reflections, introduced by our converſation on the beautiful ſtatue of Religion, deprived him of this childiſh gratification; but made him capable of one much greater: "Pure religion "and undefiled before God and the Father is "this: to viſit the fatherleſs and the widows "in their affliction, and to keep himſelf un-"ſpotted from the world *."

I afterward learned that he gave much away in alms: but does a delight in gold and

* James, i. 27.

precious

precious ſtones, even though conſecrated to the church, coincide with the ideas of pure religion and undefiled; ſuch as the great apoſtle recommends?

I was informed that the produce of his wines enabled him to incur theſe great expences.

We were deſirous of riding over the hill *Epomeus;* which, in the Italian language, is called *Epomeo.* The name given it by the people of Iſchia is *Monte di Santo Nicolo:* after a monaſtery, that is built upon it: which, abbreviated in the Neapolitan dialect, is pronounced *Mon San Nico;* likewiſe frequently *San Nico.* Our guides, proud of the beauties of their country, offered to take us a pleaſant circuit.

At firſt, we rode among garden walls, that were overarched by the branches of fruit trees in full bloom. At one moment we had an open proſpect toward the land and ſea; and at another rode up ſteep aſcents, which were ſo narrow and high that we could pluck the bloſſoms from the trees, on every ſide, from the backs of our aſſes. We were obliged to be careful of our knees between the rocks, becauſe the aſſes were with equal difficulty driven,

driven, held back, or guided. The path frequently lay on the brink of deep cliffs; all of which, like the heights, were planted with fruit trees; and over high and bushy rocks, where we saw dreadful gulphs immediately by our side. The windings of these paths often suddenly led to steep places, that were so small as not to appear capable of being passed; and the rider is obliged entirely to commit himself to his ass.

Extensive prospects frequently opened upon us. We saw the tower of *San Angelo* lying as it were at our feet. This tower is built on a high rock, that projects far into the sea; and is connected with the island by a low cape. We were long before we had attained any considerable height, because we frequently again went down steep declivities: but now we almost continually ascended dreadful paths, that lay between high walls of the tufa, or sand stone, of which the mountain consists. We met with sportsmen, who were hunting the quail; and who barefooted, that they might not slip, sprang light as the goat over the polished tufa. The dogs bring the birds that are shot out of caverns, which are impassable even to these huntsmen.

The

The upper part of the mountain is rough, but ſtill not deſtitute of ſhrubs and trees; among which the ſheep and goats wander. The more dry and high the ſoil is the more powerful is the aromatic odour of vegetation.

About four hours and a half after we had left Furia, we came to the hermitage on the top of the mountain; which is inhabited by two monks, and dug out of the tufa between overhanging cliffs. A hermit, in the proper ſenſe of the word, would in fact be ſo diſtant from the habitations of men, and ſo helpleſs, on this naked rock, eſpecially in caſe of ſickneſs, as to be in great danger. A third is come to them as a gueſt; but is ſo weak that he cannot undertake a journey to the monaſtery in the valley. He ſits almoſt continually either before the church door or in the church. He ſcarcely ſeemed to mark our approach, and ſpoke only when he was queſtioned; but anſwered with kindneſs and ſerenity. He told Nicolovius that he was born in the year 1706; from whom he learned the date of the preſent year, and thence diſcovered that he was eighty-ſix years of age. He is by birth a Palatine, but has almoſt forgotten our mother tongue.

Toward

Toward evening the ſky became obſcured, and deprived us of the pleaſure of ſeeing the ſun go down. Black clouds, riding eaſtward, received the deep ſhadows of the craggy mountain on which we ſtood, and diſplayed their forms. Under them, we diſtinguiſhed the other iſlands, with their coaſts. The ſea and the ſky imperceptibly loſt themſelves in each other; which is an appearance more common to theſe countries than it is to any other countries and ſeas that I have viſited. Sometimes you diſcover a ſhip, in a place which before you had ſuppoſed to be the ſky; and at others a rainbow, where you had imagined that it was the ſea you ſaw.

On the 16th, the ſun roſe behind clouds: yet the proſpect of the diſtant places was very beautiful. Our view extended from the iſland of Ponza, nay from Monte Dragone with all the intervening ſeas and ſhores, to Monte Cava; which towers beyond the cape of Sorento. This proſpect every inſtant increaſed in grandeur, as the clouds gradually receded before the riſing ſun.

We now thought proper to return, and proceeded by the ſhorteſt road to *Borgo d'Iſchia*. We found the way by no means ſo difficult

difficult as from *Furia d'Iſchia* to the monaſtery; though no leſs rich in ſcenery. At firſt, we frequently again rode among deep valleys; or rather verdant and leafy patches of the mountain; which appear to have been produced by eruptions of ſubterranean fire, and earthquakes. Of the former they have ſeen no appearance, ſince the great eruption in 1301: but earthquakes are not unfrequent. One of the monks, who had inhabited the mountain eight-and-thirty years, told us that about once in four or five years ſhocks were felt on the north ſide of the mountain: but they did no damage. During the laſt month the mountain was ſix times ſhaken, by conſiderable heavings.

The rude upper regions as we deſcended ſoon became mild; and more than half of the way nature again was decorated in all her ſmiles. The nightingale ſang from the thick ſhady groves of tall young cheſnut trees on the right, by the ſide of which a rivulet murmured. On the left were groves of poplar, tall cherry trees, mulberry trees, and fruits of every kind; with little corn fields, and kitchen gardens. The rye was already beginning to ear. Among the budding branches, we diſcovered the ſea, the

the iſlands, and their ſhores: thoſe iſlands and thoſe ſhores where, beyond Procida, the Poſilipo extends itſelf; and beyond the Poſilipo the low cape, at the end of which the high promontory of Miſenum riſes; affording beauties of lineal perſpective, ſuch as are ſeldom ſeen. And where is the man, who has not viſited Italy, that can imagine all the effects of aërial perſpective which are proper to this country? A tender etherial miſt ſwims before the eye and caſts an enchanting veil over every object: particularly over the ſea, its ſhores, and iſlands: communicating charms to them which are neither to be deſcribed nor forgotten. This faſcinating veil deſerves the rather ſo to be called becauſe it embelliſhes every thing, and conceals nothing. It even brings objects nearer, and delights the eye with the ſoftneſs of its ſhades. Never before could I ſee to ſo great a diſtance as in this country; where every near and diſtant object appears ſo magical.

About nine o'clock in the morning, two hours after we had departed from the top of the Epomeo, we again arrived at *Borgo d'Iſchia.*

There is a poſt felucca, that daily paſſes between

between theſe towns and Naples. Whoever ſhould be averſe to a ſea voyage, which may laſt from eight to ten hours, may paſs from Naples to *Capo Miſeno* by land. You ferry over to Procida, croſs this iſland, and again take boat from thence to Iſchia. The people of Iſchia call this kind of travelling going by land; although you are twice obliged to croſs the water. This mode of expreſſion made a paſſage in the Odyſſey intelligible to me, which had excited the ridicule of many a ſagacious critic. In the ſixteenth book, Telemachus thus queſtions his father:

Ποίῃ γαρ νῦν δευρο, πατερ φιλε, νηι σε ναυται
Ἤγαγον εἰς Ἰθακην; τινες ἐμμεναι ευχετοωντο;
Οὐ μεν γαρ τι σε πετον ὀϊομαι ἐνθαδ' ἱκεσθαι.

HOM. Od. xvi. 222.

What ſhip tranſported thee, O father, ſay,
And what bleſt hands have oar'd thee on the way * ?

POPE, b. xvi. 246.

Telemachus knew, as well as any critic, that a man could not come to an iſland on foot: but the word πετος likewiſe denoted,

* A line is here omitted, in Pope's tranſlation. Telemachus adds "It was impoſſible thou ſhould'ſt come "hither on foot." T.

after

after the cuſtom of the country, no doubt, a traveller who came from Peloponneſus over the iſlands of Zacinthus and Same to Ithaca.

The paſſage, and perhaps in a flat bottomed veſſel, was frequent between Cephallenia in Peloponneſus to Ithaca. In ſuch a veſſel Philœtias, who had been placed by Ulyſſes, while yet young, over his herds in Cephallenia, uſed to paſs; and take with him the cows and goats to the ſuitors of Penelope.

Πορθμῆες δ' ἀρὰ τους γε διηγαγον, ὁιτε και ἀλλους
Ἀνθρωπους πεμπουσιν, ὁτις σφεας ἐισαφικηται.

From the firm land they came; by boatmen brought,
Whoſe wherries are with trav'lers daily fraught*.

After my return from Sicily I remained ſome weeks in the iſland of Iſchia, and ſent ſeveral meſſengers by land to Naples: that is, what is called by land, over Procida and Capo Miſeno.

The wind was unfavourable for a paſſage to the iſland of Capri; but the boatmen repeated an aſſertion they had made the evening

* Pope's tranſlation is too free for the author's purpoſe: it is therefore, neceſſary to tranſlate, as above, rather more literally. T.

before, that it would change about noon. Their prediction was actually fulfilled: for the winds in these countries, at least during summer, are not so irregular as in ours. It was past twelve o'clock at noon when we again took boat, and cast many a look of regret from the felucca toward the paradise of Ischia; the inhabitants of which had afforded us great satisfaction. They are a well made people; and, among the women, you meet with some very fine faces. Their manners too are kind and animated; and in the expressive pantomime of look, attitude, and gesticulation, they are not inferior to the inhabitants of Naples.

The wind was with us: but there was so little of it that the men were obliged to take to their oars, and we were three hours and a half on the sea between the two islands. When we had accomplished the best half of our passage, the boatmen suddenly threw down their oars and began to whistle. The good people were desirous of affording us an unexpected sight; and they were successful in their attempt. A quantity of dolphins came round us, and rose out of the water, with curving bounds, very near to our vessel. This spectacle continued a considerable time, and we saw

many coming at a diſtance. Several of them raiſed their bodies out of the ſea but a few paces from us, with an expreſſion of curioſity: a poſition which it appeared they could only obtain by a higher bound than uſual, and which they could but preſerve for a moment. One of the boatmen unſeaſonably daſhed the water with his oar; and from that inſtant they forſook our company, although we continued to whiſtle.

You ſee that the fable of Arion, whoſe ſong collected the dolphins around him, is not entirely without foundation.

None of the iſlands which we ſaw on our paſſage had ſo wild an appearance as that of Capri; whoſe ſhores and ſummit were ſteep, rocky, and cragged. The Greeks called it *Capriæ*, *Caprææ*, and *Capria:* the Romans *Capræ*. Auguſtus delighted in this iſland, and exchanged the much greater iſland of Iſchia for it, with the Neapolitans: becauſe, being very credulous, he was perſuaded that a ſickly oak which he thought had increaſed in ſtrength ſince his arrival, was a good omen*. A ſhort time before his death, he paſſed four days in this iſland, and was very much delighted:

* Suet. in Vita Oct. c. 92 and 98.

taking

taking great pleaſure in a ſport which, according to the ancient manners of the country, the inhabitants of which are ſtill very lively, was practiſed by the youth. He encouraged and even took pleaſure in their jocularity, and was amuſed by their manner of ſnatching and eating their fruits. His ſtepſon and ſucceſſor, Tiberius, choſe this beautiful iſland as the ſecret ſcene of his deteſtable debaucheries. As it is with freedom ſo it is with ſolitude; it ennobles none but the noble: it increaſes the vice of the vicious. Tiberius reſigned himſelf in this ſolitude to his luſts and his miſanthropy; and here deviſed the moſt ſcandalous practices, and the moſt ſanguinary cruelties. Neglecting the affairs of the empire, he omitted the defence of important places; and ſuffered whole provinces to be ravaged by the enemy unchaſtiſed*.

The air of this iſland, like that of Iſchia, is very healthy; which, in addition to its ſteep ſhores, induced him to chooſe it as his place of abode. Such at leaſt is the opinion of Tacitus, that deep enquirer into the motives and actions of men†: for this iſland is only ac-

* Suet. in Vita Tib. c. 40—45, and 60. † Tac. iv. cap. 16.

ceſſible in two places; and, as may be ſeen in Suetonius, only in one in his time; and even there for none but ſmall veſſels.

I am indebted to my friend Puccini for a thought which appears to me very probable. This intelligent man, who feels with all the ardour of a poet and reads with all the acumen of a hiſtorian, conceives this choice of Tiberius to have been deeply political. From this hiding place, where the gloomy tyrant had concealed himſelf from the eyes and obſervation of the citizens by whom he was hated, he overlooked the ſea, kept the fleet which lay at Miſenum in awe, ſaw the ſhips arriving that came from Egypt, Barbary, and Sicily, which ſupplied Rome with corn, and, by iſſuing his orders, could have famiſhed the city. How deſirable was ſuch a ſituation for Tiberius; who was not a driveller, like Claudius, nor a frantic monſter, like Caligula, Nero, and Domitian; but a capacious plotting tyrant, who reduced deſpotiſm to a ſyſtem, and whoſe well combined projects were beyond the abilities of his ſucceſſors. For this reaſon, though the Romans of his age endured their chains leſs patiently than in following gene-

generations, yet he eſcaped the fate of thoſe odious wretches, and died in his bed.

We landed at a village, which was ſituated between projecting cliffs in a verdant and productive valley; to which the ſurrounding terrors of the rocks gave additional charms. Here, as in the iſland of Iſchia, are ſhady groves and gardens; and here too the air is rendered odoriferous, by ſhrubs, fruits, and flowers.

I ſaw ſeveral flowers with which I was unacquainted, and found the double red *anagallis*; which is very plentiful with us, except that it is ſingle. We aſcended a ſteep road to the little town of Capri, in hopes of finding aſſes, and of this evening viſiting the ruins of one of the palaces of Tiberius: but theſe hopes were deceitful.

Though late, we walked on the ſea ſhore; and found the ſtrand covered with multitudes of round pebbles, and very frequently among them circular pieces of white marble, poliſhed by the waves. The rocks on the ſhore form arches, and projecting cliffs; one of which ſoon ſet limits to our walk. We found corals among the flints on the ſtrand. It being dark, we

ſaw the glowing lava of Veſuvius; which riſes immediately oppoſite to Capri.

Early on the 17th, we began our ride up high ſteps, by gardens, which brought us into narrow paths, that led among blooming trees and ſmall fields, till the country became more rude: yet only more in compariſon with the pleaſant places through which we had paſſed. We ſaw the barley in full ear. The higher parts through which we rode were embelliſhed with a beautiful pyramidal *ornithogalum*, the flower of which has ſix white leaves, with a tender purple line in the middle.

Large foundations remain of the palace of Tiberius; with halls, and ruins of two pillars. A hermit now lives near the chapel of Santa Maria, in a place which was once the abode of the ruler of half the world. Here we had the grandeſt and moſt enchanting ſea-proſpect that I had ever beheld. We overlooked the whole bay of Naples, lying between the two much greater bays to which Gaeta and Salerno give their names. Beyond this is the promontory of Licoſa; and farther than that the hill of Circe; which are at leaſt five-and-twenty German miles diſtant from each other: but

but the beauty of the ſurrounding objects is of much greater value than their diſtance.

The view of the bay of Salerno is even more enchanting than the views of the two other bays. The ſhores which it preſents are lofty; and on each ſide of them are ſeen ſixteen or ſeventeen ridges of mountains, one behind the other. The promontory of Maſſa towers in the vicinity of the iſland of Capri; from which it is only about half a German mile diſtant. Beyond the ſhores of the two other bays the lofty Apennines riſe.

Leaving this place, we rode to the ſouth eaſt part of the iſland; where we alighted from our aſſes and climbed a ſteep footpath, and then made as ſteep a deſcent through a cavity formed by the arching rocks, that led to a grotto, in which we met with the ruins of an ancient building. One of the palaces of Tiberius doubtleſs was here. This might probably be one of the places where, according to the narrative of Suetonius, he delivered himſelf up to the moſt hateful laſciviouſneſs, among cragged rocks and caverns. The recollection of this monſter aſſociates itſelf with the ſolemn gloom of the wonders of the ſcene. From this rocky hall there is a proſp ct toward the ſea.

In the blue diſtance, on the left, lies a part of the ſhores of the bay of Salerno; and, to the right, the neighbouring rocks, projecting and overhanging each other. You cannot ſee the ſky, and can only diſcover a part of the ſea, viſibly encloſed, lying deep below you, and of a dark blue colour.

Our guides called theſe caverns *Grotta di Matrimon.* We are informed, by Tacitus, that Tiberius built twelve great palaces on this iſland. Suetonius calls one of theſe palaces the villa of Jupiter; from which Lipſius conjectures that the twelve great palaces were dedicated to the twelve ſuperior deities. According to this not improbable ſuppoſition, theſe ruins, to which the people have applied the word *Matrimon*, may have been a building dedicated to the mother of the Gods: or the great Mother: *Matri deorum, vel Matri Magnæ:* that is, Cybele *.

Large remains of reſervoirs, and moſaic

* Among the plates engraved for this work, there is one of this Grotto; after an excellent drawing by Profeſſor Rehberg, now living in Rome, to whom my thanks are due. I hope to ſee many of the beautiful landſcapes of this German artiſt made known to his countrymen, by the means of engraving. He labours with uncommon aſſiduity, and *con amore*.

flooring

flooring, are found on the ſouth ſide of the iſland. People were employed there in the ſearch of antiquities, at the expence of a principal perſon of Naples. Their ſuperintendant relates that pillars and other valuable antiquities have been found, but no ſtatues: probably, this was a winter palace of Tiberius.

The people of this iſland are lively, and full of geſticulation; like thoſe of Iſchia. An old woman was raiſed to a kind of comic rapture at the freſh coloured cheeks of my ſon, and at his flaxen hair. She danced round and round him, threw her arms in the air, and, as ſhe had no caſtagnetts, ſhe loudly ſnapped her fore finger and thumb, with quick emotion, and ſang, as if half inſpired or half crazy, *Quanto é bello! Sopra bello! Sotto bello! Tutto bello! O quanto bello!* How beautiful he is! Beautiful above! Beautiful below! Beautiful every where! Oh how beautiful!

It appears every where common with the people of theſe countries, when they dance with paſſion, to throw up their arms; and dancing frequently communicates paſſion, and paſſion frequently makes them dance. I once, in Naples, ſaw one woman very angry with another. After a torrent of abuſive language, ſhe

ſhe ſuddenly began to throw up her arms, and dance. One of the ancients ſomewhere mentions the terrible Graces. She capered with the intoxication of a Bacchante, now made a ſpring, remaining in the ſame place, but riſing upward with unconquerable ſtrength, then flew with incredible ſwiftneſs to the extremity of the circle formed by the crowding ſpectators, again ſhot like an arrow from a bow to the other ſide; flew back, ſtopped for an inſtant with her inflamed countenance in full play, exhauſted her gall in a new torrent of abuſe, and again began her dance.

In our rude northern climates, the limbs are not ſo ſupple, the blood is not ſo hot, the paſſions are not ſo inflammatory.

The leſs lively infant, in conformity to our manners, is early ſubjected to incapacitating reſtraint. The common people are too frequently injured by labour, and by contention with the angry elements; and the injuries are increaſed becauſe the rudeneſs of the climate increaſes the number of their wants, and the inceſſant ſeverities of their induſtry. Thoſe who are not enfeebled, but rendered hardy, become ſtiff and unwieldy: at leaſt if compared to the agility and animation of the

ſouth,

ſouth. Our bodies, leſs pliant, and impelled by juices leſs ardent, bend ſlowly to the will; and do not harmonize with, do not participate of, the ardent ſoul of quick ſenſibility; like the playful inhabitants of theſe climates. Our geſtures and our attitudes may be ſaid to ſtutter, compared to the geſtures and ſpeaking attitudes of the Italians; whoſe every motion is a word.

Our rolling national dance cannot be ſaid to picture the emotions of the mind. It is no more than the expreſſion of a thought, or rather of an inclination: yet it is expreſſion, and therefore more animated than the cold Engliſh dance; and more natural than the capricious, regulated, mazes of the French, which kind of dance, in reality, is as void of meaning as the Engliſh. Nor has it much more animation: though it has more of the imitation, the appearance of mirth; and this imitation communicates the ſemblance of jocularity, to youth. Variety, preciſion, and the ſoul of expreſſion are not diſcoverable, by me, in any of theſe dances: nor, till I came to Italy, had I any idea of the dancé of the Greeks; which was made a ſerious part of the education of their noble youth.

Not

Not that I have ſeen any dances in Italy evidently intended for moral purpoſes; but they are full of expreſſion, full of life, and of creative faculties; and they appear to prove that there is no exaggeration in the accounts given us of the moral attention paid to the art of dancing and of its dignity.

For this reaſon the art was ſo highly honoured by the Greeks of the earlieſt ages. Homer celebrates Meriones for having been a good dancer; and, in another place, he ſays,

Ἄλλῳ μεν γαρ ἔδωκε θεος πολεμηϊα ἐργα,
Ἄλλῳ δ' ὀρχηϛυν, ἑτερῳ κιθαριν και ἀοιδην.

Hom. Il. xiii. 730, 31.

To ſome the powers of bloody war belong,
To ſome the dance, the lyre, the charms of ſong*.

Pope, b. xiii. 915.

Socrates was not aſhamed of exerciſing himſelf in dancing; and hiſtory has preſerved the name Calliphron, the dancing maſter of the great Epaminondas. An ancient poet has exhibited even the Zeus dancing:

Μεσσοισιν δ' ὠρχειτο πατηρ ἀνδρῶντε θεῶντε.

In the midſt of them danced the father of the gods and men.

* I have again been obliged to vary from Pope. T.

The dance conſtituted a part of the muſic of the ancients: for this muſic included both poetry and dancing. It was the gymnaſtic of the ſoul: for, as the body was rendered more ſupple and powerful by it, ſo was the harmonic concord of the ſoul the great end of muſic. The arts of intonation and of dancing were very frequently connected with lyric poems: at leaſt with ſuch kind of poems as conſiſt of ſtrophe, antiſtrophe, and epode. Among the odes of Pindar, we find ſome the ſtrophe and antiſtrophe of which each conſiſt of ſeventeen verſes; and the epode of thirteen.

By this union of poetry, muſic, and dancing, and only by this, was the ear of the auditor, who was likewiſe a ſpectator, enabled to conceive the exiſting harmony between the ſtrophe and the antiſtrophe, and the connection of both with the epode, and to enjoy them; but not without the aid of the eye. I conjecture that the dance, which was accompanied by the ſong of the dancer, did not conſiſt in ſprings and bounds; but meaſured ſteps, regulated by the muſic, and accompanied by geſticulation of the arms. During the ſong of the ſtrophe, the dancers turned from the eaſt to the weſt, returned with the antiſtrophe from the weſt

to

to the eaſt, and ſtood ſtill while the epode was ſung. It may eaſily be conceived that, animated as the Greek rhythmus is, its harmonic connection, during the vaſt circuit if I may ſo ſay of the rhythmic period, would have eſcaped the ear, had not union and expreſſion been communicated by muſic and dancing; of which we perhaps can only form a very inadequate idea.

The greater the effects that were produced upon theſe people, by dancing and muſic, the more natural, wiſe, and neceſſary, it was to limit them by determinate rules. This was at leaſt the caſe in ſome republics, that were ſubject to the Doric laws. By ſuch means only could muſic, like the gymnaſtic exerciſes, be capable of moral worth: as it would otherwiſe have been injurious to the too inflammable paſſions. Dancing was combined with muſic, and poetry with both, in the moſt ancient ages of the eaſtern nations. We find, in the contents or titles of many of the pſalms, not only the inſtrument, by which the pſalm was accompanied, deſcribed, but likewiſe the number of the ſtrings of this inſtrument.

When the royal poet cauſed the ark to be removed from the houſe of Abinadab, in Gibeah,

beah, "David and all the houſe of Iſrael "played before the Lord on all manner of "inſtruments, made of fir wood, even on "harps, and on pſalteries, and on timbrels, "and on cornets, and on cymbals *."

And again, when after three months the ark of God was brought from the houſe of Obed Edom, the Gittite, into the city of David, that "David danced before the Lord with "all his might; and David was girded with "a linen ephod. So David and all the houſe "of Iſrael brought up the ark of the Lord "with ſhouting, and with the ſound of the "trumpet †."

Why ſhould I recall to your recollection things ſo well known as the warlike Pyrrhic dances of the Greeks, or thoſe of their banquets? You likewiſe know how Hippoclides, the Athenian, who was one of the ſuitors of Agariſta the daughter of Cliſthenes, the tyrant of Sicyon, had almoſt won the palm, when all his hopes were killed by immodeſty in dancing. Cliſthenes withheld his diſapprobation even when the youth ſtood on his head on a table: but, as ſoon as in this poſition he began to throw his legs in the air, and geſticulate as

* Sam. vi. 5. † V. 14, 15.

if with his arms, Cliſthenes exclaimed, Ω παῖ Τισανδρου, απωρχησασγε μην τον γαμον.

O, ſon of Tyſandras, you have danced away your bride*!

A deſcription of a dance of the ancients, which they called the *Hormos*, that is, the neck band, is preſerved by Lucian; and appears to me to be ſo charming that I cannot forbear to cite the paſſage.

"The *Hormos* is a dance performed by "young men and young women, who are "interchangeably arranged, one behind the "other, in the form of a neck band. A "youth, dancing, leads the ring, with ſuch "attitudes as may be ſerviceable to him in "war. A Virgin modeſtly follows, dancing "with female ſoftneſs: ſo that the Hormos "weaves a garland of graceful modeſty and "courage †."

The Ionic dance was notorious for its voluptuouſneſs. It is a complaint, with Horace, that young women in his time were inſtructed in this dance.

Motus doceri gaudet Ionicos
Matura virgo, et fingitur artibus
Jam nunc, et inceſtos amores
De tenero meditatur ungui.

Lib. iii. ode 6.

* Herod. vi. 126. † Λεκιαν· περι Ὀρχησεως.

With

With pliant limbs the tender maid
Now joys to learn the ſhameleſs trade
Of wanton dancing, and improves
The pleaſures of licentious loves.

FRANCIS.

You know how Herod, enflamed by the dancing of the daughter of his wife Herodias, and probably heated with wine, made the mad oath of granting whatever boon ſhe ſhould require, even though it were the half of his kingdom; and that the murder of a holy man, whom he honoured, was the conſequence of this oath.

It is a common opinion in Italy that perſons, who have been bitten by the Tarantula, can only be cured by dancing; and not by that, unleſs the muſician ſhall play an air that ſuits the temper of the patient: which he can only diſcover by repeated trials. This opinion, the truth of which I ſhall leave to future enquiry, as I hope to hear more of it in Apulia, evidently proves the power aſcribed by the Italians to dancing accompanied by muſic: a power which is indubitably proved by a variety of experiments.

In the afternoon, we ſailed with a briſk gale from Capri; and ſaw the eaſt ſide of the iſland,

the appearance of which is even wilder than that of the north. The hollow cliffs, dreadful to view, reſiſting the raging waves, now tower perpendicularly, and now preſent themſelves in fantaſtic forms.

We paſſed the promontory of Maſſa: or, as it is called, *Campanile di Maſſa:* the belfry of Maſſa. It is thus named by the Italians from their cuſtom of erecting towers, for their bells, not upon but beſide their churches. By the ancients it was called the promontory of Minerva.

We landed at the little town of Maſſa; where we hired mules, and rode to Sorento. At firſt, we aſcended a very ſteep height: after which the road became more level, but continually pleaſant. All the productions of earth ſeem to embelliſh theſe coaſts. Beſide the leſs agreeable olive, the beautiful oak riſes: the *cytiſus-laburnum* grows wild in the hedges; which it decorates with its lovely grape formed flower.

That beautiful ſpecies of ſpartium, which our gardeners call Spaniſh broom and which is preſerved in the hot houſe in winter, here grows wild with its yellow butter flower; and, like

like the bloom of the *cytiſus*, is delightful both to the ſight and the ſmell. The ſpartium and the *medicago arborea*, the *cytiſus* of Virgil, flower in Italy in the winter.

The whole hill above us was ſhaded with lofty trees; and we ſaw the ſea on the left: having aſcended to a great height, riding through zig zag roads among groves of orange, citron, and various fruits in bloom, till we came to Sorento.

The age in which this place was founded is uncertain: but it is of high antiquity. It was generally believed, among the ancients, that it derived its name of *Surrentum* from the Sirens. I cannot conceive how the naked rocks, that project from the promontory of Maſſa, or thoſe ſmaller cliffs that face Sorento, could have been ſuppoſed to be the iſland of the melodious Sirens. Homer mentions the iſland of the Sirens: but he likewiſe tells us they ſang in flowery meadows. That the charming iſland of Homer lay between the promontory of Circe and the gulphs of Sicily is certain: but I ſhould rather ſeek it in the vicinity of theſe gulphs. We find that, after Ulyſſes and his companions had paſſed the

iſland, they heard the thunder, and ſaw the ſmoking billows, of Scylla *.

> Now all at once tremendous ſcenes unfold;
> Thunder'd the deeps, the ſmoking billows roll'd!
> POPE, Od. xii. v. 240.

Sorento is built in a verdant valley, which is ſituated upon the hill. Nature has rendered this valley inacceſſible from the ſea on all ſides: for the rocks, which are in the form of a ſickle, are high and ſteep. Protected from the ſouth and the eaſt by the hill, refreſhed by the ſea breeze from the weſt and the north, viſited by the afternoon ſun, and ſheltered from the north wind by the heights beyond Naples and Poſilipo, this valley enjoys an eternal ſpring. It is watered by the rivulets of the mountain; and the quick deſcent of the ſhores prevents the water from forming marſhes. The odour, from the buds, flowers, aromatic ſhrubs, and plants, is ſo

* ——— When I wrote this, I had not ſeen the cliffs which are ſituated in the bay of Salerno, on the further ſide of the cape of Sorento, called *Le Galle*, and generally ſuppoſed to be the iſland of the Sirens: though they are very ſmall, and barren.

ſtrong,

ſtrong, that it penetrates and fills the ſtreets and houſes. The breezes from the ſea and the mountain ſport with theſe lovely odours; and, by purifying the atmoſphere, prevent them from becoming too powerful.

In the evening, we went on board a fiſhing boat, and rowed along the coaſt. As the rocky ſhore is ſteep and the houſes of the town are built in the valley, which lies rather under the rocks, we were obliged to ſail tolerably far into the ſea, before we could diſcover the little town. From its produce it carries on a conſiderable trade with Naples; and its ſtrand ſwarms with buſy and reſtleſs mariners. Under what is properly the town, the rocks frequently riſe perpendicular from the ſea; and frequently afford a ſmall bank, for boats and fiſhermen. Steps are cut in the rock, through ſuch openings as lead to the ſtrand; from which too there are roads cut, in a lateral and zig zag direction.

Wherever nature affords little plats among the rocks, gardens are planted; and, among the inacceſſible cliffs, wild ſhrubs and flowers peep. I never made ſo charming a little trip as this, or one ſo diverſified in its beauties: nor ſhall I ever forget the high rock, fronting

the garden of a Capuchin monaſtery, which roſe, like a watch tower, braving the angry waters. As we rowed round into a ſmall bay, we had a glimpſe of a monk, ſpreading nets to catch quails in a verdant part of the garden that was over-arched with trees.

Like moſt of the hills of theſe ſhores, that on which Sorento ſtands is cleft in many places, and over theſe cavities bridges are built, as over rivers. On the morning of the 18th, we deſcended one of theſe cliffs, through which a ruſhing ſtream poured its waters. Lofty trees incline their branches from the upper edge; others grow blooming below; and, between them, luxuriant ſhrubs, mingled with innumerable aromatic plants and flowers. We ſat ſome hours beſide the rivulet in this cooling cavity; and ſaw, opening in front above us, a high rocky grotto, lined with moſs, round which the ivy, kept in motion by the air, ſpread itſelf, forming a thin curtain.

The vegetables and fruits of Sorento are excellent. We met with lemons, which we could not ſpan with both hands; and ſweet oranges, which, for ſize, odour, and taſte, were not inferior to the famous oranges of Malta.

Milk and butter are equally good; and the veal of Sorento is ſuppoſed to be the beſt in Italy. The water is cooling, and clear; and the wine, which in colour reſembles Burgundy, has ſome ſtrength: but it is acid, becauſe they do not know how to preſerve it above a year. Galen long ago remarked that the wine of Sorento did not become mild in leſs than ten years; and I am well aſſured that, if proper means were taken and it were treated in a different manner, it would be excellent and maintain its ancient fame. Ovid celebrates the noble vines of the Sorentine hills.

—— *Surrentino generoſos palmite colles* *.

Rich in all the gifts of nature, embelliſhed with all the charms that ſeas, and rocks, and hills, and dales, and rivulets, and groves, ſhrubs, fruits, and flowers, can afford, in all their various and loveliеſt changes, this little people live as it were protected by their ſituation, ſecured under the moſt friendly atmoſphere, and endowed with all the profuſion that can delight the heart of man.

The ſilk manufactory maintains many peo-

* Metam. xv. 710. Surrentine hills, that generous wine produce.

ple; and here, as well as in Capri, the women are often ſeen on the tops of their flat houſes, or ſitting at their doors, with their little ſtools, weaving ribbons. There you ſee the poliſhed roſy threads paſs through their ſun-burnt fingers, while from houſe to houſe they converſe with each other acroſs the ſtreet, or with men at work below them, and with ſuch animation that there ſeems to be a conteſt between their hands and their tongues, which can move the faſteſt.

The rocks beſide the ſea, as well as little inſulated cliffs, are covered with a kind of white ſlime; which is occaſionally diſcharged by the water. The ſame thing happens likewiſe at Poſilipo. While it remains humid, it emits a pleaſant ſmell; and, when dry, ornaments the ſtone with a kind of white tapeſtry. The aromatic coaſt of Sorento is celebrated by Italian writers. The author of the Life of Taſſo ſpeaks of the *lidi odoriferi del mare:* the odoriferous ſhores of the ſea.

This great poet was born in Sorento, in the year 1544. Naſſa it is true likewiſe claims this honour; but it appears that Sorento was the place of his birth, or at leaſt that he ſpent his early youth in this town.

Happy

Happy poet! whoſe tender ſoul was ſuſceptible of all the impreſſions which, under the mildeſt of climates, great and beautiful nature could afford! His father was a native of *Bergamo*, a conſiderable town in the Venetian territories: for which reaſon the Venetians claim a right in Taſſo. Thus have three towns conteſted the honour of producing a poet, whoſe delightful numbers have been tranſlated into all the dialects of Italy and Sicily*.

The citizens of Sorento, with true national pride, ſhewed us the houſe in which the immortal poet was born. Though inferior in ſublimity and fire to the great Dante, and in fulneſs and in richneſs of imagination to the luxuriant Arioſto, he is one of the three great poets of modern Italy, who have done honour not only to their own country but to all mankind: for all mankind are infallibly juſt to men of extraordinary genius, and ſuch men do not properly belong to any ſingle country.

* *Lo Taſſo Napoletano, zoe La Gieroſalemme Libberata de lo ſio Torquato Taſſo, vatata a LLengua noſta; da Grabiele Faſano.* NAPOLE, 1689. This is the title of a folio tranſlation of Taſſo, into the Neapolitan dialect, which is in my poſſeſſion. T.

His chaſte Muſe was inſpired with the pure love of the true and the beautiful; and, deſirous only of deſerving praiſe, without ſeeking the applauſe of the multitude, he obtained the garland of glory from their hands; which he will ever preſerve.

In the afternoon, we rode on mules from Sorento to *Caſtell-a-Mare.* A road is cut in the hill; which, at leaſt in many places, is almoſt impaſſable. The various ſcenes of nature, with which I have endeavoured to entertain you in this long letter, were here again diſcoverable; and, in addition to their other charms, were dreadfully ſublime. Compared to this day's jaunt, in which we ſpent four hours and were frequently obliged to alight and proceed with the utmoſt caution on foot, the paſſage of Mount Cenis, which yet has its terrors, is an eaſy high road.

The nightingale ſaluted us from the young cheſnut groves. The ſpacious proſpect of the ſea opened upon us, and at laſt we beheld, lying at our feet, the little town of *Caſtell-a-Mare;* where the ſhips of the royal navy are built, and from which they are launched. This place is ſituated at the foot of a woody mountain, and enjoys a healthy and cool air.

The

The king ſpends the hotteſt part of the ſummer here, in company with his family and a ſmall train.

On the place where *Caſtell-a-Mare* now ſtands, the ancient town of Stabia once ſtood; which, like Pompeii and Heraclea*, was buried in the year 79 by the eruption of Veſuvius.

The healthy air of this place is mentioned by Galen.

We took poſt horſes at *Caſtell-a-Mare*, and returned to Naples by the way of *Torre del' Annunciata*, *Torre del Greco*, and Portici. All the country was in a high ſtate of cultivation. Among other plants, the *borago* is reared; the blue flowers of which, in Germany, we ſometimes mix with our ſallad. It is eaten by the Italians as ſpinage. Here likewiſe whole fields of white poppies are ſeen; from which laudanum is produced.

I am now preparing for my journey into the ſouthern provinces of this kingdom, and to Sicily.

I have been detained in theſe fortunate fields by innumerable grand objects. How much has this little journey of five days ex-

* Herculaneum.

ceeded

ceeded my expectations! I hope I have not viſited Sorento and Iſchia for the laſt time. I hope, at the end of ſummer, far from the tumult of cities, to reſide in theſe plains of paradiſe; which are more lovely and beautiful than any that I had ever beheld before.

LETTER LXXVIII.

Salerno, 28th April 1792.

BEFORE I undertook my journey through Puglia, Calabria, and Sicily, I was deſirous of viſiting the grand remains of the ancient Greek town of *Pæſtum*, or *Peſto*, at this ſeaſon of the year, while the air is not yet dangerous. For this purpoſe, taking Nicolovius and Jacobi along with me, I yeſterday morning rode to Salerno.

At Portici, we were joined by our friends: the two Meſſieurs Droſt, from Münſter, with their companions, Mr. Vicarius Büngens, and Captain Colſon.

As far as Pompeii, the countries we ſaw were

were not unknown to us. Thoſe we afterward came too were equally fertile, and variegated in their views and objects: eſpecially on this ſide of the little town of *Nocera di i Pagani;* which, by the Romans, was called *Nuceria Alfaterna* *; till a colony was ſent thither, in the time of Auguſtus, who then called it *Nuceria Conſtantia.* It ſeems to have derived its preſent name from the Saracens, by whom it was conquered; and who, in the middle ages, were frequently denoted by the epithet *Pagani:* or Pagans.

We already ſaw both wheat and oats in ear. We rode over woody hills, and through a charming narrow valley; which hills ſtrongly reminded me of the *Bergſtraſſe*, that lies between Darmſtadt and Heidelberg. Here we met with equal induſtry of agriculture but greater fertility, from lands that lie under the influence of ſo mild a climate. Theſe national recollections were ſoon loſt in the delightful little valley that lies between La Cava and Vietri; where, far below us, a clear rivulet now winds through herbage and groves, and now ruſhes among the rocks.

This valley is juſtly held to be the moſt

* Cluv. Ital. Ant.

beautiful

beautiful place in Italy. It is a calm beneficent retreat, inviting all that are capable to the enjoyment of nature.

Having arrived at Vietri, you are ſuddenly ſurpriſed by a view of the bay of Salerno, with its craggy ſhores and promontories, that are ſhaded by high trees, and that form ſmall gulphs, among the cliffs and grottos, in delightful variety. The town of Salerno is ſituated in the great bay to which it gives its name. Formerly, when Peſto flouriſhed and was known by its ancient Greek name, it was called the bay of *Poſidonia*.

We departed early, before ſun riſe; and found the country, between Salerno and Peſto, extremely fruitful, and rich in foliage. The unhealthineſs of the air is injurious here to agriculture, becauſe inhabitants are wanting. The marſhy places are chiefly the paſtures of herds of buffaloes.

We paſſed a ferry over the Silaro, the *Silarus* of the ancients, which was the territorial boundary between the *Lucani* and the *Picentini*: or *Piceni*. Few corn fields are ſeen on the farther ſide of the river: but the ſpontaneous vegetation is luxuriant. Here I met with many to me unknown flowers. The red

adonis

adonis grows wild; and I saw the *cercis siliquastrum*, or tree of Judas, covered with its beautiful red papilionaceous flower. Some of the inhabitants call it *platano*; though it has nothing in common with the *platanus*; and others *guzza-pino*; because it bears leaves and has no prickles.

The ruins of Posidonia appertain to the most ancient remains of Grecian architecture. They are evidently of an age when the art had acquired its highest character of dignified simplicity: an age which in Greece was called the age of Pericles, who lived above four hundred years before the birth of Christ*.

There are likewise the remains of a gate;

* When I wrote this I had met with no good representation of the temple of Minerva in Athens, which was rebuilt by Pericles after it had been destroyed by the Persians. I have now seen an engraving of this noble building, in the *Archæologiæ Græcæ* of Potter, and remark that there are pedestals to the pillars. In the temple of Neptune, at Posidonia, the pillars rest immediately on the ground; according to the most ancient manner of the Doric architecture. It therefore appears that this temple of Neptune is more ancient than the temple of Minerva, built by Pericles; which was likewise called *Parthenion*, or the temple of the virgin. The resemblance between these temples is striking.

and

and of the city wall, which was twenty-ſix Neapolitan palms in breadth; (The Neapolitan and Sicilian palm is the extent of the ſpan, including the firſt joint of the thumb.) and, beſide theſe, there are the pillars of three very large buildings ſtanding. The hindmoſt appears to have been a baſilica, or hall of juſtice; and the two others were temples. Of theſe three buildings, that which is in the middle was evidently the grandeſt.

This has been properly called the temple of Neptune: the ancient town having been dedicated to that deity, and from his Greek name, *Poſidon*, called *Poſidonia*. In the breadth of the temple there are ſix pillars, and fourteen in length; therefore, thirty-ſix in the circumference. They are each forty-three palms in height; and, if I do not miſtake, have one-and-twenty flutings, διαξυσμαὶα, *ſtriaturas*, *cannelures*, but without pedeſtals, according to the ancient Doric manner. Neither have the pillars of the two other buildings any pedeſtals: though their too great tapering appears to denote an age when the beauty of proportion had not been diſcovered; at leaſt not with ſufficient accuracy. For this reaſon, both

both theſe buildings ſuffered very much ; when compared to the temple of Neptune.

This temple conſiſts of three ailes. Upon the two middle rows of pillars others of a leſs ſize are conſtructed, which likewiſe are Doric. Perhaps there was a wall, that ran between the outward and the next row of pillars ; as ſome traces ſeem to denote. If ſo, the temple muſt have had five ailes. The architrave and the frieze are in good preſervation : as likewiſe is a great part of both the frontiſpieces.

The whole has a combined character of beauty, grandeur, and ſimplicity ; compared to which, the nobleſt buildings of ancient Rome would appear inſignificant.

The baſilica has nine pillars in breadth, eighteen in length, and fifty in circumference. The other temple has ſix pillars in breadth, thirteen in length, and thirty-four in circumference. All theſe pillars are fluted. Theſe ſtructures are of a kind of porous ſtone, which is called travertino ; with which St. Peter's at Rome is built.

Such are the noble monuments of Greek art, that had remained many centuries unobſerved by antiquaries, when the ſcholar of a painter of Naples, while he reſided at Capaccio, a little

town that is built on the hill near Peſto, diſcovered them from a hill as he was walking toward the ſea. As ſoon as he returned to Naples, he gave an enthuſiaſtic relation of what he had ſeen to his maſter; who went with him to view the great ruins, and publiſhed the diſcovery to the world.

Immediately beneath the ancient city wall a rivulet runs, which has a petrifying quality that was remarked as early as Strabo. Its banks are reedy, and ſome little hollow pillars bear evident marks of being themſelves petrified reeds. I taſted the water and thought it brackiſh; and indeed the inhabitants call it, *Fiume ſalſo:* or ſalt river.

Cluverius found it freſh: but he poſſibly taſted it at another ſeaſon of the year, and certainly at ſome other place: otherwiſe he muſt have ſeen the ruins. This brook often overflows, and either cauſes or increaſes the unhealthineſs of the air. Plutarch ſpeaks of its marſh, to which Spartacus retired with his fugitives, and ſays that its waters were ſweet at one time and ſalt at another*.

The roſy gardens of Pæſtum are praiſed by Virgil and Ovid. Virgil tells us they annu-

* Plutarch's Life of Craſſus.

ally

ally bloomed twice——*Biferique roſaria Pæſti*——and I was aſſured that they ſtill poſſeſs this quality at Peſto. By Ovid they were called "The tepid roſy gardens of Pæſtum"—*Tepidique roſaria Pæſti.* During the whole of our way to Salerno, the air was tepid, and the breeze diſagreeable; but we did not find ourſelves oppreſſed by it till we had croſſed the gloomy Silaro, and were about three German miles on this ſide of Salerno. The people who live at the ferry have a pallid and bloated appearance. Nicolovius aſked one of them why he continued to live there? He replied becauſe he was obliged. "Who is it that obliges you?" ſaid Nicolovius. "Poverty" anſwered the man; with a true Italian ſhrug of the ſhoulders.

The air of Peſto gave me a bad head ach: yet I ſaw a flock of goats that was uncommonly full of life. It is probable that the very quality of this air, which to man is injurious or rather mortal, may have a different effect on the organs of theſe animals, whoſe ſtrong ſcent may afford an antidote. The ſame may be true of vegetation.

Poſidonia was founded in very early times, and is of Grecian and Doric origin. The Sybarites,

barites, who had conquered the town, built the wall after the building of the temples. They were obliged to yield to the Lucani; and the Lucani to the Romans, probably during the ſecond Punic war. The Romans corrupted the ancient name to *Pæſtum*; from which the Italians have formed Peſto.

Inconſiderable ruins of a temple, which, according to an inſcription that was found, was conſecrated to the *Mens Bona*, or ſound mind, denote, as do remains of an amphitheatre, that was indubitably built in the times of the Emperors, how profane was the hand of Roman art, when compared to the high genius of the Greek!

Peſto lies about half a league from the ſea. The continued mountainous ſhore riſes beyond the town, on the right, toward the ſea; and, on the left, the curving coaſt is diſcovered as far as the promontory of Licoſa: while ridges of hills tower and diſappear in perſpective.

While I was writing this, Jacobi called to me demanding my attention to a new object: the buſhy height of Salerno, which was ſwarming with flying glow worms.

The illuminated livelineſs and motion of

theſe inſects are delightful. How did they hover about, riſing over the hills into the air, and looking like little ſtars!

Salerno was formerly called *Salernum*. During the ſecond conſulſhip of the firſt Publius Scipio Africanus, when Tiberius Sempronius Longus was his colleague, ſoon after the ſecond Punic War, a Roman colony was ſent hither. In the middle ages, Salerno had its own Princes; and, in the tenth and eleventh centuries, the Arabians here taught philoſophy, and the art of phyſic: which laſt ſcience was exerciſed with emulation and renown, ſo that in the year 1100, a book on the medical art, as practiſed at Salerno, was written in Leonine verſes.

This town has been the ſeat of an archbiſhop for more than eight hundred years. The haven of Salerno was once famous; but it is now neglected, and the proverb is

Se Salerno averſe un porto,
*Napoli ſarebbe morto**.

Large annual fairs are held here. The Leo-

* If Salerno had a port, Naples would be dead: or,

If Salerno had a port,
Naples would have little ſport.

nine Muſe ſtill appears to hover over the place; for ſhe is not ſeen alone in the work I mentioned, but likewiſe in the following Latin; which is ſung by a community of Salerno, on the feſtival of St. Fortunatus.

Salernum civitas nobilis,
Quam fundavit Sem Noe filius *.

LETTER LXXIX.

Barletta, 4th May 1792.

ON the morning of the 29th of April, we took leave of our friends from Münſter, whom we again hope to meet in Sicily; and, in order to avoid returning to Naples in our way to Puglia, the ancient *Apulia*, we rode over hills to Avellino.

This was one of the moſt pleaſant little journeys I have ever made. Rich in foreſts and rivulets, which ſpring from the rocks and wind meandering through the laughing

* Salerno is a city noble,
Founded by Shem the ſon of Noah.

meadows,

meadows, this country is adorned with all the charms of nature; at once wild and friendly. The young verdure exhaled its ſweets, after ſprinkling ſhowers; and the nightingale ſaluted us from the budding branches. We ſaw the linden and the cherry tree of extraordinary growth in the villages; though the linden is ſeldom met with in Italy. The white thorn is ſtill in bloom; and already the Italian honeyſuckle * flowers.

A rough, rocky, and frequently ſteep, road led us among high cheſnut foreſts, over a ridge of the Apennines; which ſeparates the provinces of *Principato Citra* and *Principato Oltra.*

According to ancient geography, theſe mountains divided the country of the *Picentini* from the country of the *Hirpini.* The latter were a tribe of the Samnites; in whoſe language, according to Strabo, *hirpum* ſignified a wolf.

From the heights of theſe hills, ſhut up among the woody mountains, we ſaw a valley plentifully watered; the diverſified beauties of which, as we proceeded along the

* *Caprifolium perfoliatum.*

winding road, continually preſented new charms to the eye.

We arrived early at the not very little town of Avellino; which is built in a fruitful place, among the mountains.

During the whole way, and particularly when we approached Avellino, we ſaw many large hazle buſhes, the nuts of which are ſo famous. Hence the French call a fine kind of this fruit *des Avellines*.

The eaſt ſide of the country round Avellino is no leſs beautiful than the weſt. On the morning of the 30th, we ſaw many of the *cytiſus* ſhrubs in bloom: but the mountainous diſtricts ſoon became more rude, and we met with leſs grain; moſt of which was not yet in ear. This backward growth muſt not be aſcribed to the mountain air, but to the poverty of the ſoil; which is ſtony, and frequently ſandy. The inhabitants do not appear to neglect the labours of agriculture: as an inſtance, we ſaw them hedging their grounds. They have likewiſe many fruit trees; but only ſuch as grow in the open air in Germany.

Theſe countries abound in trees; and their towns are generally built on hills; which cuſtom

tom is leſs inconvenient among the Italians, becauſe of their breed of mules and aſſes, than it would be in Germany. The high road, which was the work of the late King, Don Carlos, is excellent, and abounds in extenſive proſpects over valleys and hills; behind which, on all ſides, high ridges of the Apennines riſe.

On the firſt half of the way, we paſſed the little town of *Monte Fuſcolo*, lying on the left on a high hill.

As we approached Ariano, we ſaw vineyards which were laid out in the German, or rather in the Swiſs, manner; for, though the vines are carried up poles, they yet ſhoot over croſs laths, and are conducted from one vine ſtock to another.

Ariano lies on a high hill of tufa ſtone, ſome of the houſes of which are hewn in the ſoft rock. The town is very ancient. Some among the ancients aſcribe its foundation to Diomedes, ſon of Tydeus, King of Ætolia, one of the celebrated heroes of Homer. That he made a deſcent in Italy after the taking of Troy is as well proved as are any of the narratives of the renowned heroes of this ſiege; with which, embelliſhed by the dreams of fable

fable, the hiſtory of Greece begins to dawn. However, it was the cuſtom of the leaders of the early Greek colonies to make ſettlements upon the ſea coaſts. The ancient Italian name of the town was *Equus Tuticus*; and *Tuticus*, in one of the moſt ancient Italian dialects, ſignified *great*: This place therefore was called *Great Horſe*. Perhaps you will be a little inclined to laugh at an etymological vagary that ſuggeſts itſelf. What if the epithet *Deutchſe* *, which the people of Switzerland ſtill pronounce *Tütſchen*, in Latin *Teutones*, originally ſignified *the great?* You know how terrible an impreſſion the greatneſs of our anceſtors made on the Romans; who, with this impreſſion of greatneſs, ſtrength, and valour, aſſociated even the flaxen hair and the blue eyes of the Germans, as things dreadful.

I muſt not omit to notice that Germany formerly conſiſted of marſhes, and foreſts, which have been drained and felled; that it was then colder than it now is; and that the deſcription given of the Germans, by the Romans, perfectly agrees with the preſent people of Norway. I have never been in that country, but the Daniſh life guard chiefly conſiſts of

* German;

pure

pure Norwegians; the aſpect of whom frequently brought to my recollection the ancient Germans.

On the 1ſt of May, we made a little trip up the country, to the ſouth, to view a remarkable natural phenomenon; which had neither been overlooked among the remarks of early naturaliſts, nor by the ſage Muſe of Virgil. We hired a guide, and ſometimes rode up narrow paths and frequently over the beds of brooks; which were now half dried up, but which in ſome ſeaſons of the year are impaſſable. The heat was rather great; but the way was pleaſant. We ſaw many foreſts of oak; the ſight of which for ſome days paſt had delighted us, becauſe, in other parts of Italy, though here and there a ſolitary tree may be met with, there are but few foreſts.

We heard numerous nightingales, among the ſhady valleys, and ſinging in the foliage of the high banks of the rivulets; and we met with a ſhepherd, who was playing on the bagpipe. We yeſterday had before heard this kind of muſic, enlivening the people of a village, who were employed in toſſing the ſheep that were ſheered from the top of a high bridge,

bridge, into the brook. The villagers are friendly and gay.

Weary with the ſtiff jog trot pace of our hack horſes, which, though they were Neapolitan ſtallions, were unworthy of their breed, we alighted at the village of *Caſal di Frigente;* and proceeded more than half a German mile on foot. This ſmall village is ſituated in a foreſt, at the foot of a hill; at the top of which the little town of Frigente ſtands. Our charming road at firſt led us under lofty cheſnuts, and oaks; where we heard the ſong of the nightingale, which was anſwered by the clear note of the quail, the warbling of the lark and the goldfinch, the cry of the cuckoo, and the chirping of the chattering graſshopper.

When we left theſe ſhady heights, the heat became very great; and we were not a little delighted to meet with a goatherd, whoſe boy, with great dexterity, caught the goats, as the old man pointed them out; when they would not follow, but diſregarded the *Theocritic* call of *Sitta! ſitta!* which is ſtill in uſe.

We refreſhed ourſelves with drinking ſome of the warm foaming milk. The milk of the Italian goat is much more pleaſant than that

that of ours; for it has not the ſame ſtrong taſte, but is rather ſweet, and very white: neither are the goats here ſo ſtrong ſcented as they are in Germany.

At the bottom of a declivity, the ſummit of which was overgrown with oaks, there was a tolerably ſteep dale; in which there was a ſulphureous ſpring, that yielded but little water, but that ran over a ſpacious ſtony bed, which denoted what its contents might be in autumn, and winter. The depth of the ground, and the whole bed that it formed, bore a great reſemblance to Solfatara, near Pozzuoli. It was equally cruſted with ſulphurous ſubſtances, and likewiſe appeared to have holes; at leaſt the earth was broken through in more places than one. Below is a little pool, the circumference of which may be about ſixty paces; and the water, that is as dark as the darkeſt lime water, ſpouts up in various places. On the ſhore, there is a natural fountain; that projects its waters, with froth and noiſe, to the height of a man, and that never ceaſes to riſe. This noiſe, this viſible boiling, and theſe reſemblances with Solfatara, leave us without the leaſt doubt that it is caſt up by hot ſources; though we found it entirely cold.

Virgil

Virgil could not have diſcovered a better place for the Fury Alecto, when ſhe unwillingly obeyed the command of Juno, at the moment that ſhe expected the applauſe of the goddeſs, and was obliged to return to night and hell *.

Eſt locus, Italiæ in medio ſub montibus altis,
Nobilis et fama multis memoratus in oris,
Amſancti valles. Denſis hunc frondibus atrum
Urget utrinque latus nemoris, medioque fragoſus
Dat ſonitum ſaxis et torto vortice torrens.
Hic ſpecus horrendum, & ſævi ſpiracula Ditis,
Monſtratur; ruptoque ingens Acheronte vorago
Peſtiferas aperit fauces: queis condita Erinnys,
Inviſum numen, terras cœlumque levabat.

VIRG. Æn. vii. 563.

In midſt of Italy, well known to fame,
There lies a lake, *Amſanctus* is the name,
Below the lofty mounts: on either ſide
Thick foreſts the forbidden entrance hide:

* Miſguided by Addiſon, I have ſaid in my Iſland †, that Virgil, in this deſcription, ſpoke of the waterfall of Velino, near Terni, in the States of the Church. Virgil no doubt meant this aperture.

Later remark. Since I wrote this, I have ſeen the great waterfall near Terni, which does not agree with Virgil's deſcription. The reader will judge for himſelf, when I have conducted him to Terni.

† This I ſuppoſe to be the title of ſome work, that I am unacquainted with, by the author, Count Stolberg. T.

Full

Full in the centre of the ſacred wood
An arm ariſes of the Stygian flood;
Which, breaking from beneath with bellowing ſound,
Whirls the black waves and rattling ſtones around.
Here Pluto pants for breath from out his cell,
And opens wide the grinning jaws of hell.
To this infernal lake the Fury flies;
Here hides her hated head, and frees the lab'ring ſkies.
DRYDEN, v. 777.

The Romans here erected a temple to the goddeſs *Mephitis:* whom they likewiſe called *Graveolentia*, or the Ill ſcented. Why ſhould they not as well build a temple to Mephitis as to the goddeſs of *Tuſſis:* or Cough? who is ſuppoſed to have been honoured in a ſanctuary the ruins of which are ſtill to be ſeen near Tibur, the modern Tivoli.

In the preſent altered yet recognizable dialect, the place is called *Muſite*. Near, and perhaps on the ſame ſpot, where the temple of Mephitis ſtood, there is a chapel called, *San Felice*. May not this likewiſe have been a corruption of the word *Amſanctus*, or *Amſanitus*, which was the name of this place *?

In the forenoon of the day before yeſterday, we reached the top of the mountain. The country was poor in trees; and we ſaw

* Cluv. Ital. Ant.

the

the bald top of Apulia, lying before us, which is dried by the eaſt wind, according to Horace,

Quos torret Atabulus.

The land was ſtony, and the corn poor: but, when we came into the province of Puglia, the ancient Apulia, we met with a very welcome foreſt of oaks; which firſt afforded us ſhade, and, as the ſun got higher, ſome cooling breezes. An excellent field of wheat reminded me of the induſtry of the ancient Apulians; whoſe fame the preſent inhabitants appear willing to maintain.

For ſome time before we came to Bovino, the trees diſappeared; and, in the middle of the day, we rode through a large open plain, which here and there bore excellent corn; though the greateſt part of it was paſturage.

The ſheep of this province are ranked among the fineſt in Italy. The cattle are not ſo prodigiouſly large as thoſe in Terra Lavoro: but they are ſtrong, numerous, and have large horns, like thoſe in the States of the Church; the modern breed of which is derived from Puglia. They are all of them light grey; as in general are the cattle of the middle and lower parts of Italy, from the moſt northern countries

countries of Tuſcany to the ſouth point of Calabria. We likewiſe ſaw a herd of buffaloes; which, being in want of larger marſhes, were here collected round a ſmall pool. This breed of animals, during the heat of the day, repoſe themſelves by lying in lakes, or marſhes; and are frequently ſunk ſo deep in the mud that nothing but their turned up muzzles is viſible. They are dark brown, rough, almoſt ſhaggy, and have little round horns, arched backward; which are ſerviceable only to butt with, and not to gore. They are rather overcome than tamed. The buffalo ox has a wild and fearful aſpect, under the yoke; and the buffalo cow ſhyly looks about her, while ſhe is milked. If they are grazed in the ſame paſture with other cattle, the herds keep themſelves ſeparate. The milk is thinner than that of the cow, is ſweet, very healthy, and affords very pleaſant viands.

The buffalo was neither a native of Italy nor does he now wander wild in this country. The race was brought from Aſia five or ſix hundred years ago; and they all have proprietors. The King has a breed of white buffaloes, from Hungary; which he received

from the late Emperor: but I have not ſeen them.

We paſſed the town of Fogia, on the left; which was the ancient Luceria, and the founding of which, like Ariano, is aſcribed to Diomedes. It is ſtill by many called Lucera. On a hill to the right, we ſaw the little town of Aſcoli.

The Romans would have beſieged Luceria, when they were ſurrounded in the defile by Herennius, the valiant and cautious leader of the Samnites; where, in the year of Rome 432, or 321 before the birth of Chriſt, they were obliged to paſs under the yoke at *Claudium* *.

Aſcoli was formerly called *Aſculum;* and, near this place, in the year of Rome 471, and 282 before Chriſt, the Romans, under the conduct of their two conſuls, Curius, and Fa-

* The Count has been guilty of two miſtakes, in this ſhort paſſage; a thing very unuſual with him: the received name is Caudium, not Claudium. Portius was the general of the Samnites; and Herennius was his father, whoſe advice was indeed too wiſe to be followed by the vain and ambitious ſon: it was generouſly to ſuffer the Romans impriſoned in the *Caudinæ Furcæ* to depart. Liv. ix. T.

bricius,

bricius, both great men, gained a battle over the conqueror Pyrrhus.

The high mountain of Volto, the *Vultur* of the ancients, rises on the south west; concerning which Horace so poetically fables that, having fallen a sleep upon it while a boy, the doves had bedecked him with sprigs of myrtle and laurel:

Me fabulosæ, Vulture in Appulo,
Altricis extra limen Apuliæ,
Ludo fatigatumque somno,
Fronde nova puerum palumbes

Texere: mirum quod foret omnibus,
Quicumque celsæ nidum Acherontiæ,
Saltusque Bantinos, et arvum
Pingue tenent humilis Ferenti:

Ut tuto ab atris corpore viperis
Dormirem et ursis: ut premerer sacrâ
Lauroque, collatâque myrto,
Non sine dîs animosus infans!

HOR. lib. iii. od. iv. 9.

Fatigu'd with sleep, and youthful toil of play,
When on a mountain's brow reclin'd I lay,
Near to my natal soil, around my head
The fabled woodland doves a verdant foliage spread.

Matter, be sure, of wonder most profound
To all the gazing habitants around,
Who dwell in Acherontia's airy glades,
Amid the Bantian woods, or low Ferentum's meads,

By ſnakes of poiſon black, and beaſts of prey,
That thus, in dewy ſleep unharm'd I lay;
Laurels and myrtle were around me pil'd,
Not without guardian gods an animated child.

FRANCIS.

To the north eaſt, we ſaw the mountain of *Garganus*; which is ſituated in the province of *Capitanata*, over the bay of *Manfredonia*. It is now called *Monte San Angelo*. Here there is a chapel, which is viſited by pilgrims; and we met ſeveral country people, in the forenoon, who were returning from their journey. They bore pine branches, with their fruit, tied round their long pilgrim ſtaves; to denote that they had accompliſhed their pilgrimage.

Before the ſun went down, we reached the village of *Ardona*; which was known to the ancients under its preſent name, though it was likewiſe called *Ardoneæ*.

The Greek name for all Apulia was *Japygia*; and the country on this ſide of the river *Aufidus*, which is now called *Ofanto*, was the *Apulia Daunia* of the Romans. The epithet *Daunia militaris*, or the warlike Daunia, was applied to it by Horace. Apulia was always famous for its heat; which yeſterday, con-

ſidering the ſeaſon of the year, was very great; though an enlivening ſea breeze blowed from the Adriatic, toward the eaſt, in the afternoon.

We found a very effectual and pleaſant antidote to the heat, in that kind of large citron which is common in the ſouth of Italy, and is called *Valenciana*. It is not ſo ſoft and excellent as the leſs and more common citron: but it may be entirely eaten, both pulp and ſkin.

Yeſterday, at Ardona, we had a diſtant view of the Adriatic; illuminated by the riſing ſun. It was our intention to arrive at Barletta in the evening; from which we meant to make a trip to *Cannæ*, to view the field of battle: but we learnt, at *Cerignola*, that it was but a ſhort day's journey to Barletta paſſing by Cannæ: we therefore determined to remain at Cerignola, as the heat was very great, and take this road on the morrow.

The plain is dry, and ſandy; and only here and there ſcantily ſhaded, by wild pear trees: but the ſhort graſs is the more aromatic, and affords excellent paſture for ſheep. Horace travelled here, and what he ſays of the place is ſtrictly true. The bread is excellent;

the water is dug from wells, and ſold: though the ſprings are not diſtant. Before I had examined the combining circumſtances, which after ſo many ages have paſſed away are ſtill concordant, I was not of the opinion of thoſe who imagine the poet ſpoke of Ariano. An additional proof is what Horace has ſaid of the name of the place; which is, that it did not accord with his verſe. The names, *Equus Tuticus*, can indeed in no manner be brought into verſe. The old name of Cerignola was not known. Beſide, we muſt not forget that Horace came from *Villa Trevici:* the preſent *Trevico*. He made a retrograde motion of four-and-twenty miles, before he reached the place in queſtion. I do not accurately know how far Ariano is from Trevico; but it is certain that, on his journey from Rome to Brunduſium, he muſt have gone a conſiderable way back, in order to come to Ariano. At preſent, Cerignola is thirty miles from Trevico: but the roads of the Romans were generally in a right line, and ſhorter than moſt of the modern roads. Nay more, Horace tells us that the prudent traveller would do well to take the bread of this place with him to *Canuſium:* the modern *Canoſſa*. Canoſſa is

ſix

ſix miles diſtant from Cerignola: but it is forty-two from Ariano! Would a traveller carry bread in his wallet two-and-forty miles? Cerignola actually lay, not on the Appian way, but three miles from it: Horace however had once before left this road, when he went to *Villa Trevici*; probably, on both occaſions, to viſit his friends.

In Cerignola, which is well built, there is ſtill a Roman mile-ſtone; with an inſcription, of the age of Trajan *.

The people collected at the inn; and, as is the cuſtom of this country, our chamber was not empty of them: but they ſtared at us as if we had been wild animals. They queſtioned us concerning our country, and our travels; and talked of Italy, of the battle of Cannæ, and of the antiquities of theſe parts. Our friendly hoſt ſent for one Don Giovanni Danielle; a handſome young man, who was

* It was the young man of Puglia, whom I have mentioned in the text, who told me that the ancient Appian way was three miles diſtant from Cerignola: but Riedeſel is of opinion that Cerignola was ſituated on this way; and that the pillar, which is ſuppoſed to be a mile-ſtone, was one of thoſe that were erected to Trajan on this way, after his victorious campaign againſt the Daci: and this is a rational and probable ſuppoſition.

well acquainted with the country and antient authors; and who talked with great animation of his countryman Horace, and of his native town *Venuſia*: now *Venoſa*: which is only eighteen Italian miles from Cerignola. It was from him I learnt that the *Atabulus*, which Horace tells us rendered the hill of Apulia barren, is a parching eaſt wind; which the people of Puglia called *Altino*.

He ſhewed us the bay of Manfredonia, and Monte Angelo, from the top of a hill. When the weather is clear, Manfredonia and the ruins of the antient *Arpi*, founded by Diomedes, may be ſeen. The antient *Salapia*, the ruins of which are ſtill called *Salpe*, ſtood not far from Cerignola.

Don Giovanni* took us to the garden of one of his friends, who has a country houſe near Salpe. Some labourers, digging in the ground a few years ſince, found a large antique vaſe; the mouth of which was carefully covered with lead. They opened it, in hopes

* In the ſouth of Italy, and in Sicily, it is cuſtomary to call people by their chriſtian names; but, inſtead of Signor, they preface them with the epithet Don. Thus the Engliſh preface the chriſtian names of the Baronets, and Knights, with Sir: as, *Sir Iſaac*: *Don Giovanni*.

of

of finding gold: inſtead of which, they found only a clear odoriferous water. Full of vexation at the diſappointment, they threw it out of the vaſe: and thus ſcattered this valuable water of the nardus: the charming ſcent of which was felt far around, for three days. The high value, which the people of the Eaſt, as well as the Greeks and Romans, ſet upon this perfume is well known.

During our walk, the fame of the arrival of foreigners had ſpread, and a great crowd ſurrounded us; ſome of whom followed us into our apartment. The landlord requeſted Jacobi to write down our names, and country; that, by this means, he might, when we were gone, ſatisfy the enquirers.

As the inhabitants of this country ſeldom travel without an armed eſcort, and as they form a ſtrange idea of our country, travellers like us, from a land ſo diſtant, appeared to them bold adventurers; who had encountered, and ſtill had to encounter, Herculean labours. Their ſenſations are rather lively than durable: but they feel themſelves intereſted in foreigners, concerning whom they are induced ſeriouſly to enquire.

Don Giovanni now accompanied us to Canoſſa;

noſſa; and afterward, for the Romans, to the too celebrated Cannæ. On our road, we paſſed the river *Ofanto:* the *Aufidus* of the ancients: the waters of which are already much decreaſed; and, in the middle of ſummer, its broad ſtony bed will be little more than a brook: but, in autumn and winter, it is a charming ſtream, and deſerves the epithet of *longe ſonans*, or far-ſounding, which Horace gives it; for it frequently overflows the fields, as in the poet's time; to whoſe waters he compares the ſtep-ſon of Auguſtus, the young warrior Claudius.

Sic tauriformis volvitur Aufidus,
Qui regna Dauni præfluit Appuli,
Cum ſævit, horrendamque cultis
Diluviem meditatur agris.

HOR. lib. iv. od. 14.

So branching Aufidus, who laves
The Daunian realms, fierce rolls his waves,
When to the golden labours of the ſwain
He meditates his wrath, and deluges the plain.

FRANCIS.

The preſent Canoſſa includes only a part of the ancient town; of which there ſtill are tombs, a gate, and ruins of the walls, remaining. We ſhould have been glad to have found

found the tomb of the benevolent Buſa; a noble matron, who, after the battle of Cannæ, when the citizens of Canuſium afforded ſhelter to four thouſand fugitive Romans, generouſly ſupplied them with corn, clothing, and money, for which ſhe was publicly honoured by the Senate *.

Following the advice of Horace, we took bread with us from Cerignola: in which we were very prudent. *Nam Canuſî lapidoſus*, ſays the poet: and the bread of Canoſſa is in fact ſtill of a ſtony quality, and worſe than any I have met with in Italy; in many parts of which the bread is bad. This hardneſs ſeems juſtly aſcribed to the ſoft millſtones of Canoſſa: yet it is inconceivable that the inhabitants ſhould have continued for more than eighteen centuries in this practice, without ſending for other mill ſtones.

The principal church is a very wretched Gothic building: but it contains ſix pillars of *verde antico*, and likewiſe is the burial place of Boemondo; the knight whom Taſſo, in his Jeruſalem Delivered, has rendered immortal.

* Liv. xxii. c. 52.

We

We viſited the field of battle at Cannæ, with Livy in our hand. How does the aſpect of the place give reality to the deeds of former times, and form and colour to the ſhades of the departed! The deſcription of Livy is delightful. We evidently ſaw how Hannibal had ſupported his left wing by the Aufidus, extending his right toward the downs near the ſea; and how the ſouth-weſt wind, from the Vultur hill, *ventus Vulturnus*, and the afternoon ſun, were full in the face of the Romans.

It was about the time of harveſt when the battle was fought; and the afternoon rays of the ſun are even already ſcorching, while the ſouth-weſt wind, from Volto, blows, bringing duſt with it over the ſandy plain. Some find it difficult to imagine why the flying Romans ſhould not rather have paſſed the river than have come to Canoſſa. It is true the Ofanto was always ſcanty of water, in ſummer, and fordable; and a part of the Roman army, that was ſtationed on that ſide, might, by exertion, have paſſed. But it is not recollected that, in this general flight, the fugitives preſſed on all ſides; that, probably, the

the excellent cavalry of the Carthaginians had cut off every other retreat; that a handful of men only escaped to Canossa; and that Hannibal himself called to the victorious army, "Enough! Forbear! Spare the vanquished!"

Below one of these downs, there is a clear spring, with much water; at which tradition says that, while bleeding with his wounds, Paulus Æmilius here refreshed himself, before he expired.

The whole place appears very naked: but, on the approach to Barletta, there are good arable lands, and vineyards; the vines of which are not carried an ell high: and it is affirmed that this kind of wine is the best, because the grape is more perfectly ripened by the steaming warmth of the ground, as it rises from the rocky bed. These, which are of a red kind, are strong and ardent. As the wine here is as cheap as the beer with us, the Swiss, who lately were stationed at Barletta in garrison, drank it to dangerous excess.

Great quantities of a plant are found in the bean fields; to extirpate which no degree of industry is sufficient. It bears a white pyramidal flower; which resembles, but is larger than,

than, the ſweet pea. Its roots are entwined round the roots of the bean plant, grow with it, and thus render it ſickly. The people call this plant *ſporchia;* and *ſucciamele;* becauſe the bees take delight in extracting honey from it. It is called *orobanche*, and *fiamma*, in Tuſcany.

Barletta is a tolerably large well built town; and its ſituation on the Adriatic, the aſpect of which to me is delightful, is the more charming becauſe you likewiſe diſcover, oppoſite to the coaſt of the bay of Manfredonia, the high mountain of San Angelo: which was the Garganus of the ancients, celebrated for its fertility. Barletta may contain twenty-two thouſand inhabitants; and has a large ſtone pier, which runs into the ſea: yet it is ſaid that it is never a ſafe place for ſhipping; eſpecially when the *Greco-Levante*, or eaſt north eaſt wind, blows. The people carry on a conſiderable trade; and the principal articles of exportation are corn, almonds, and ſalt. Near the town, there are large royal ſalt works.

A bronze coloſſal ſtatue of the Emperor Heraclius, which was found in the ſea, ſtands in the market place: of which the people have made a Saint.

LET-

Winter Huts on the Shores of the Adriatic

Letter LXXX

Winter Huts on the Shores of the Adriatic

Plate LXXV

LETTER LXXX.

Taranto, 11th May 1792.

ON the 15th, we rode from Barletta to Bari: the province of which, now by ſome called *Terra di Bari*, and by others *Provincia di Trani*, was by the ancients named *Daunia Peucetia:* or rather ſimply *Peucetia.* The *Peucetii* were likewiſe called *Pædiculi.*

On our road between Barletta and Bari, we paſſed through four other towns, all of which are in like manner built on the ſea ſide, called Trani, Biſeglia, Molfetta, and Giovenazzo.

Trani, formerly *Turrenum*, is the ſeat of an archbiſhop. It may contain about fifteen thouſand inhabitants; and the handſomely built Molfetta twelve thouſand. *Biſeglia*, the antient *Vigiliæ*, has a ſtreet in which there are larger houſes than might have been expected in ſo ſmall a town.

The appearance of Giovenazzo is ſingular. It has very high walls of ruſtic architecture; within which the high houſes, and towers, riſe in narrow rows: the roofs flat, and built of

of poliſhed ſtone. Giovenazzo in appearance reminds you of the ſports of nature in various kinds of marble, agate, or cryſtal; among which you imagine you ſee walls, houſes, and towers.

On this coaſt, all the productions of nature and art are ſingular, and different from any that I have hitherto ſeen. The lands are induſtriouſly cultivated: but, in many of the fields, the oats and barley grow in tufts *. The corn has not been ſown with broad caſt; but three or four grains have been planted together, in the manner we plant garden peas.

I am told that the corn which is reared in this manner is cut, before the ears ripen, as green fodder for cattle. Where the land is very rocky and the plough cannot be uſed, this may be the beſt, or perhaps the only, manner of turning it to advantage. The vines are not higher than potatoe plants are with us; and the ears of corn and the vine are often intertwined. In theſe fields the fig, the carob, the almond, the peach, the apricot, the olive, and the granate tree, the beautiful red bloom of which now begins to appear, are all ſeen to

* I have ſince ſeen wheat grow in this manner, in ſeveral parts of Sicily.

grow.

grow. Here you find various fields that are entirely like thoſe through which Sampſon ſent the jackalls; which, in the tranſlation of the bible, have improperly been called foxes; when he tied the fire brands to their tails, "let them go into the ſtanding corn of "the Philiſtines, and burnt up both the "ſhocks and alſo the ſtanding corn, with the "vineyards and olives *." There is a valley, between Trani and Biſeglia, in which we evidently diſcover the bed of a river, that formerly meandered through the plain and emptied itſelf into the ſea. Like our blue *tremſe* †, the ſingle red poppy grows here in great quantities, which the French call *coquelicot*, and which grows among our wheat though ſparingly. The yellow horned poppy is found here wild, in abundance, among the rocks and ſand of the ſhore. The *carob*, *ceratonia*, extends its branches very far: the twigs frequently ſink, and are weighed down to the

* Judges xv. 5. My clerical friend, Rudolf Schinz, from Zürich, has made the ſame remark, in his Deſcription of Italian Switzerland, concerning the reſemblance between ſuch fields and thoſe of the Philiſtines.

† I cannot diſcover more than the context tells me of this plant. T.

ground; where they probably take root, and the ſprouting ſtems are at laſt ſeparated from the mother plant.

There are remarkable ſmall round huts built here, of the fieldſtone, that have no windows, and only a low entrance, which is always open. Here the country people live, with their wives and children, during the vintage. I ſend you a drawing of theſe huts, which will convey to you ſome idea of theſe ſingular places.

The wine is very ardent, and red, like moſt of the Italian wines. The white wines, ſome of the moſt generous excepted, are not to be indulged in: at leaſt, it is affirmed that they do not agree with Germans. The varieties of tree, grain, and vine, afford an inceſſant change; which is ſtill farther embelliſhed by the proſpect of the highly coloured, blue, Adriatic ſea.

I might eaſily have given a pompous deſcription of places, which are ſome hundreds of German miles diſtant, but I muſt acknowledge that the country between Barletta and Bari, entertaining as it is to a traveller, is not that which ſatisfies the heart. The numerous trees it contains afford only ſcattered

and

and inefficient ſhades. There is no thought of an umbrageous walk; and pure as the charming vegetation is, excepting only the gloomy and mutilated olive tree, yet the impreſſion of the whole wants that ſecret, inimitable, fullneſs of harmonv, which is the reſult only of great and uninjured nature.

The whole is a rock: yet we never ſee any bold projecting rocks, any grottos, any foreſts, or any ſprings. How different to this were the grandeur and harmony of the noble and native beauties, which we ſo lately ſaw in the iſlands of the bay of Naples: at Sorento, at Cava, at Vietri, and between Salerno and Avellino!

Bari is built upon a rock, which is a peninſula. Horace calls it the fiſh-abounding Bari; but the fiſh of this place, at preſent, are more famous for their goodneſs than for their numbers. Though Horace is the firſt writer who mentions this town, the inhabitants maintain that it is more ancient than Rome. This is a kind of vanity peculiar to the Italians.

Bari is the ſeat of an archbiſhop, and may contain about twenty thouſand inhabitants.

Its trade principally conſiſts in olives and almonds.

We met with quantities of both theſe trees, as we travelled on the 6th, leaving the coaſt of the Adriatic and Bari to go to Taranto. The beautiful freſh verdure of the almond tree is heightened by the pallid hue of the olive.

During the heat of the day, we halted at a little town, that is called *Mondrone;* the inhabitants of which were buſily employed in celebrating the holiday of their patron Saint, *Santo Triphone.* About four hundred little pieces of artillery, made of gun barrels, were arranged before the church; and, according to the cuſtom of the place, were fired in honour of the Saint, as his image was borne in ſolemn proceſſion, accompanied by prieſts, banners, drums, and fifes. The people entreated us very much to look at their beautiful Saint. It was the figure of a warrior, completely armed, about half the ſize of a man: a kind of puppet, cut in wood. The honours now paid to him were probably the honours that were formerly paid, in the ſame place, to ſome hero.

The

The Italians are always inclined to conſider their Saints' days as holidays. They frequently mingle with this trifling amuſement an inward but fleeting ſenſe of devotion: a flaſh which, among moſt of them, ſcarcely paſſes perhaps from the image to the Saint: much leſs to him who alone is worthy of adoration.

In the evening, we rode through a wood; in which, along with the oak, there were many cork trees. This kind of tree appears to be a medium between our oak and the evergreen prickly oak; the fruit of which, though leſs, is perfectly like our acorn. The fruit of the cork tree is ſtill leſs than this, and not ſo long; and, like the other kinds of acorn, it is eaten by ſwine. Corks for bottles are made from the bark of this tree; and likewiſe cork ſoles: for which reaſon it is called by ſome the ſlipper tree. This bark is alſo uſed for the nets of fiſhermen: becauſe, by ſwimming on the ſurface, it ſhews where the nets have been caſt. Of this likewiſe the cork jacket is made; which is uſed for ſwimming, and the uſe of which is ancient. In the advice given to Horace by his father, the

latter adds, "When thou art old, thou wilt ſwim without the help of bark:"

—— *Nabis ſine cortice**:

figuratively to tell him he would not then want aid. This valuable tree ſeems deſtined by the Creator, for our uſe, to be robbed of its bark: for every other tree, when ſtripped of its bark, dies. The bark is four fingers thick; and, after it has been peeled away, grows again in two years.

We paſſed the night in the little town of Gioja; and, on the 7th, we again came to a large foreſt: but the ſtony ſoil will not permit the trees to attain a beautiful growth. Here and there, we ſaw good corn fields: but we met with others,

"*Wo, in ſteinigem acker, die ſaat der kieſel erſticket*†,

as Klopſtock, in an inimitably expreſſive and rugged verſe, has told us.

We expected to have met with a ridge of the Apennines, which ſhould have formed the heart of the peninſula: but the rocky

* Hor. i. Sat. iv. 120.

† In ſtony lands, where flints the ſeed had killed.

hills,

hills, that lie between Gioja and Maſafra, do not deſerve this name. The whole country between Bari and Taranto, like the coaſt between Barletta and Bari, is flat and rocky.

At noon, we yielded to the friendly importunities of our hoſt, at Maſafra; who took us to the church, to ſhew us the carved image of the *Madonna della Scala:* Our Lady of the Ladder. With what enthuſiaſm did he ſpeak —— not of the Virgin —— of the image! You no doubt remember the conteſt that aroſe in the time of Auguſtus, between the Thundering Jupiter and the Jupiter of the Capitol. The common people in Italy are all zealous for the image of their town. It is not ſo much the Holy Virgin as the Holy Virgin of the Ladder; nor ſo much the Holy Virgin of the Ladder as the particular image belonging to their own town, and their own pariſh church, that is the object of their devotion. This devotional zeal is the aſſociate of national vanity. The ſolemn honours of the Saint are combined with popular games, and ſports; and with public feſtivals, which frequently degenerate into pernicious exceſs.

The ſhrubs and vegetation of theſe ſtony re-

gions are very powerfully odoriferous; and especially the bushy *cistus*, which fills the air with a balsamic scent. Its bloom is generally white, though sometimes red; and the flower, which the German gardeners call *cistus-röslein**, can scarcely be distinguished from the field rose: though the leaves and buds are very different from the leaves and buds of that plant. The cistus with us is a green-house plant.

A bush, the leaves of which resemble trefoil, and which bears great quantities of a fruit that resembles beans, likewise grows wild here. The people call it *lupina selvaggia:* or the wild *lupinus.*

As the Greeks had named all Apulia after *Japyx*, who is supposed by some to be a son of Dædalus, by others a brother of Daunius and Peucetius, the sons of Lycaon, so they called the peninsula (which sometimes is now called *Terra di Lecce*, from the chief town *Lecce*, but oftener *Terra d'Otranto* after Otranto) Messapia; from Messapus, who was said to be a son of Neptune.

—— *Messapus equûm domitor, Neptunia proles.*
VIRG. Æn. vii. 691.

* Little cistus rose.

Messapus

Meſſapus next, great Neptune was his ſire.
DRYDEN, v. 955.

The ancients called the eaſt ſide of the peninſula Calabria; and the weſt the land of the Salentines: though the latter was frequently included under the name Calabria. Thus the inſcription of the monument of Virgil, which ſome hold to have been written by the poet himſelf, tells us,

Mantua me genuit, Calabri rapuere, tenet nunc
Parthenope; cecini paſcua, rura, duces.

I ſung flocks, tillage, heroes: Mantua gave
Me life, Brunduſium death, Naples a grave.

Life of Virgil prefixed to Dryden's Tranſlation.

Tarentum, where Virgil reſided for ſome time, was underſtood by the general name Calabria.

The provinces, which are now called *Calabria citra* and *Calabria oltra*, had very different names given them by the ancients; who, at firſt, called them by the common term Lucania. When fugitive ſhepherds roſe againſt their rulers, and founded an individual ſtate, *Calabria oltra*, which we likewiſe, becauſe of its ſouthern ſituation, call Calabria, received

from them the name of *Bruttium:* and this muſt not be confounded with *Abruzzo*, which is the modern name of a part of the ancient Samnium. *Calabria citra* continued to be called Lucania by the ancients.

Virgil makes Meſſapus combat againſt the Trojans, as the ally of Turnus. The people of Meſſapia were not of Greek origin, but were called by the Greeks barbarians : a word which, among them, did not ſo accurately ſignify a barbarous nation as a nation that was not Greek. Tarentum was not only the principal town in Meſſapia but in all Italy; and was taken by the Greeks about ſeven hundred years before the birth of Chriſt: the occaſion of which I will relate.

During a tedious war between the Spartans and the Meſſenii, the Lacedemonian women complained of being ſo long deprived of all intercourſe with their huſbands.

Among the Spartans, more than among any other of the Greeks, and more even than among the Romans, the man was ſubordinate to the citizen, and virtue to the ſtate. The women were permitted, or rather commanded, to receive the youths, who remained at home, as their huſbands. When the army at length

returned, the fruits of these connections, who were improperly enough called maiden sons, παρθενιοι, were considered as natural children. This enraged them; and, under the conduct of Phalanthus, many of them left their country, and with their leader landed on the coast of Italy.

The oracle had told Phalanthus that he should settle in that land, and city, where it should rain from a clear sky. Phalanthus defeated the barbarians; but conquered neither their town nor their country, and was grieved that he could not discover the meaning of the oracle. His wife accompanied him, endeavoured to afford him consolation, and, as his head happened to be lying on her lap that she might free it from vermin, her tears wetted the hair. It then immediately occurred to him that the oracle was fulfilled: for his wife's name was *Aithra*, which signifies *clear sky**. Strengthened by this animating hope, he took Tarentum the following night; which, at that time, was the greatest and wealthiest city of the Barbarians on the sea

* Strabo: and Pausanias, lib. x.

coast.

coaſt *. The city and the river, among the Greeks, preſerved their ancient name of *Taras;* from the hero Taras, to whom the founding of Tarentum was aſcribed, and to whom they did the honour of ſuppoſing him to be a ſon of Neptune. From *Taras* the Romans formed *Tarentus*, and more frequently *Tarentum;* and from theſe came its preſent name, *Taranto*. The firſt ſyllable is pronounced long: as likewiſe is the O, in the name of the town of Otranto. The ſchool

* There are people who would entirely baniſh fable from ancient hiſtory; and by ſuch people I ſhall frequently be criticiſed. To ſeparate the fabulous from the hiſtorical, as frequently as poſſible, is good: but not without exception. Truth often is concealed behind the veil of fable. Beſide, fable appears to me ſtill more important as it affords a hiſtory of human genius than as the veil of hiſtorical fact: and this is a ſpecies of hiſtory more engaging to the true philoſopher than the moſt pompous details of war, or ſucceſſions of dynaſties. I have a paſſing recollection that Fenelon is guilty of an anachroniſm of five hundred years, when he makes his hero, Telemachus, the contemporary of Phalanthus. Poets have the right of changing ages to anſwer their purpoſes. We ought not to chooſe a poet as our guide through the labyrinth of chronology. I know a lady of wit and underſtanding who ſtudies the Engliſh hiſtory by reading Shakeſpeare.

of

of Pythagoras flouriſhed for a time in Tarentum; and produced Archytas, one of the greateſt men of antiquity, who governed the town with wiſdom and reſpect, and who was the contemporary and friend of Plato.

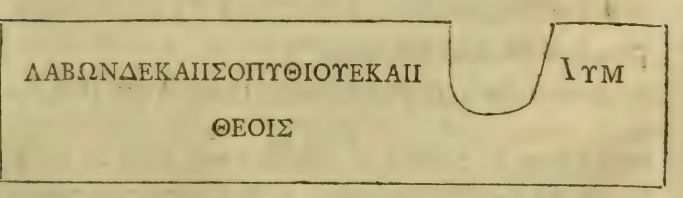
It likewiſe formed Lyſis, a citizen of Tarentum; and he the great Epaminondas, the pride of Thebes and Greece, in an age when great men were no longer common.

The people of Tarentum were celebrated for bodily exerciſes; and a certain method of training war horſes was called, after them, ταραντανιρειν. A part of the bay of Tarentum, which was called the *Saturian* fields, was famed for its ſtuds *; and even ſtill affords good horſes †.

Miſuſing

* Hor. i. Sat. vi. 59.

† The preſent archbiſhop of Taranto found a fragment of ancient marble, in the principal church, on which is the following part of an inſcription:



From the part that remains of this inſcription, it is evident that he who dedicated this ſtone to the Gods had been

Miſuſing the fertility of the earth and the mildneſs of the air, the people of Tarentum gradually gave themſelves up to indolence, and voluptuouſneſs. At the time that they affronted Rome, their power was great. They plundered a Roman ſquadron of ſhips, killed the commander, and inſulted the ambaſſadors that came to complain of the violence done to the rights of nations. However it appears that, in the interim, the Romans were ſecretly practiſing againſt the contracted alliance, and were the real promoters of the breach of peace: but this artful conquering people knew how to take advantage of the raſhneſs which they excited others to commit; and, under the pretext of juſtice, to be guilty of depredations. War was proclaimed, by Rome, and Tarentum applied to Pyrrhus for help. After Pyrrhus had departed from Italy, the *Tarentini* called for aid on the Carthaginians: however they ſoon made peace with the Romans *.

In the ſecond Punic war, they were the al-

been victor in games; of which ſome were in imitation of the Pythian, and others of the Olympic, games.

* Liv. Epit. xii. xiv. xv.

lies

lies of the Carthaginians; and their city was taken by Fabius through treachery. Two of their leaders, Nicon and Democrates, fell in combat; and it was thought that the third, Philomenes, who had left the city full gallop and was not again heard of, had thrown himself into a well. It was he who had adviſed the alliance with Hannibal.

Many ſtatues and pictures were found by the Romans; and, among others, coloſſal ſtatues of their Gods, in combating attitudes. Fabius, who probably foreſaw the influence which an exceſſive admiration of theſe works of art would have on the manners of the Romans, did not take away the ſtatues, and the pictures. When he was queſtioned what booty he had taken and how he had acted, the ſage leader replied, he had left the *Tarentini* their angry Gods *.

Thus Tarentum loſt its freedom, of which it had become unworthy and perhaps incapable, through effeminacy and arrogance.

In the time of its proſperity, according to the teſtimony of Strabo, it had as great a fleet as any people of Greece; and contained thirty thouſand foot, ten thouſand horſe, and three

* Liv. xxvii. 15 and 16.

thouſand

thouſand knights. The geographer adds that the people were ſo ſunk in voluptuouſneſs that they had more feſtivals than there were days in the year. Thus, in Strabo's time, who was a contemporary of Auguſtus, though ſubjected, they had become more happy than their voluptuous forefathers had been toward the concluſion of their independence. There can be no doubt but that they enjoyed even more freedom, under the Cæſars, than they did toward the cloſe of what they called their age of liberty. A ſtate is free, or ſlaviſh, according as the laws * govern, or are neglected. And how could the voluptuous and degraded *Tarentini* eſcape the affliction of diſobedience to the laws?

Taranto at preſent may contain eighteen thouſand inhabitants, and is built upon the ground where the fortreſs of the ancient Tarentum ſtood; between what is called *Mare Piccolo*, or little ſea, and the bay of Taranto. This is a rocky iſland; on each ſide of which there is a bridge, that gives it a communication with the two ſeas: or rather with the little bay and the great, between which it

* Subſtitute the word *morals*, and the reaſoning will be excellent. T.

ſtands.

ſtands. This is the only place in the Mediterranean ſea where regularly, and indubitably, every ſix hours, the tide is obſerved to ebb and flow *. The *Mare Piccolo* lies to the eaſt and the north of the town; and the bay of Taranto to the weſt and the ſouth. The ancient town extended far toward the ſouth; and the whole *Mare Piccolo*, which is more than two German miles in circumference, ſerved it as a haven.

The Archbiſhop of Taranto, a Neapolitan of the noble family of Capece-Latro, had the kindneſs to invite us on the 8th, the morning of the day after our arrival, to his palace.

* In the time of Ferdinand the Firſt, of Arragon, Taranto was a peninſula; but, after Mahomet the Second, in the year 1480, had taken Otranto, and it was preſumed that he would arrive with his fleet at Taranto, Ferdinand commanded that the cape ſhould be cut through. The work was continued by his ſon, Alphonſus; and Philip the Second, ſon of Charles the Fifth, commanded the canal to be widened, and rendered navigable. In proceſs of time, it became dammed up; and the air was thus rendered very unhealthy: but Don Carlos, the father of the reigning King, that Don Carlos to whom the Two Sicilies are ſo much indebted, in 1755, with the labour of three years once more opened it; and ſince that time the air of Taranto is not only healthy but balſamic. Vide *Deliciæ Tarentinæ.*

He is a man of much intelligence, uncommonly pleaſing in his manners, and has a countenance that, while it beams with benevolence and dignity of ſoul, appears to me extremely to reſemble the portraits of Henry the Fourth of France. I have met with few men who were ſo familiar with nature as he is, or who ſo well knew how to enjoy her beauties. He is one of thoſe rare men with whom you are as intimately acquainted, and as openly confidential, the firſt day you meet as with the tried friend of years.

He ſhewed us the garden of a monaſtery, which lies tolerably diſtant from the preſent town, eaſtward, and which proves the grandeur of the ancient city; for we find indubitable traces in it of an amphitheatre. This muſt have been the work of the Romans; for the Greeks held theſe blood thirſty ſpectacles in abhorrence. Nor could it have been built before the time of the laſt Emperors of the firſt century; becauſe, under Auguſtus, Rome itſelf had no amphitheatre, but theſe ſpectacles were exhibited in the Circus. It was no doubt erected, by the Romans, either within or immediately in the vicinity of the city; for we find that, regardleſs of the well

founded

founded diſguſt of the Greeks, they built amphitheatres in moſt of the Greek towns.

From this the Archbiſhop took us to a little country houſe, on the banks of the *Mare Piccolo;* where, for his recreation on the water, he has built a ſmall haven, in which there are ſome boats. He jocularly calls this haven his *Breſt;* and we went on board one of the boats, where we witneſſed the ſingular œconomy of the ſhell fiſh, which is called *cozza peloſa:* or, *mitylus eſculentus.* Theſe fiſh, for their taſte, are preferred to all others, are peculiar to this little ſea, and are ſent from here to Naples. Stakes of pine are driven into the ſea in the month of December, when very ſmall ſhell fiſh cling in great quantities round theſe ſtakes. In the month of May, the ſtakes are almoſt entirely covered with them; and one ſhell hangs to another like bees, when a young ſwarm is pendent, in the form of a bunch of grapes. They are then ſuddenly torn away, and thrown, as they hang in cluſters, into the ſea; where they attain their full growth, to pleaſe the palate of the ever voluptuous Tarantines. If they are ſuffered to remain on the ſtake, they only keep the growth which they had attained during the winter.

It was the prejudice of the inhabitants that theſe ſtakes could only be profitably erected to a certain diſtance near the town: but the Archbiſhop, by his example, has taught them better; and the trade, which is very valuable to the fiſhermen of Taranto, has greatly increaſed.

The oyſters of this little ſea are likewiſe peculiarly good. People take a curved and forked inſtrument, with many teeth, by which they obtain whatever oyſters they pleaſe from the tranſparent water; and, like as it is pleaſant to eat fruit under the tree, ſo they here eat living oyſters in their boats.

The *Mare Piccolo* is remarkably rich in fiſh; particularly in varieties of oyſters, and ſhell fiſh; and perhaps as abundantly ſo as any part of the luxuriant Mediterranean. Regulations, which probably are as ancient as the times of the Greeks, determine what kind of fiſh are to be taken every month.

Horace makes the proficient in the art of cookery, Catius, celebrate the ſhell fiſh of Tarentum:

Pectinibus patulis jactat ſe molle Tarentum.

HOR. Serm. ii. ſat. iv. 34.

And

And ſoft Tarentum broadeſt ſcollops boaſts.

FRANCIS.

The *Mare Piccolo* is only acceſſible to the natives of Taranto, and the people on its borders. Other fiſhermen, even thoſe of Bari, though they are ſuffered to fiſh round the peninſula and in the bay of Taranto, are here prohibited. The Tarantines complain that theſe ſtrangers injure their fiſhery, by making the meſhes of their nets too ſmall, and catching millions of young fry, inſtead of ſuffering the fiſh to attain their full ſize.

The water of the *Mare Piccolo* is by no means ſo ſalt as that of the bay, or of the main ſea; for it is ſweetened by many freſh ſprings; as its waves curl, their round poliſhed ſurface denotes theſe ſprings; which are called by the Tarantines *occhi del mare:* or, eyes of the ſea. From theſe freſh water can be obtained between the ſalt waves; and the aſpect of the white round ſwellings of theſe freſh ſprings, ſurrounded by the more lofty and blue billows, is charming: eſpecially when, as the ſun goes down, the purple and foaming waves reflect the roſe coloured atmoſphere as in a mirror.

The ſoft riſing of the ſhores is characteriſtic

of the whole country. The olive and the fig tree grow beſide each other; and both kinds here attain a very ſuperior growth. The country is indeſcribably pleaſant. The *Mare Piccolo* is not ſubject to ſtorms; and tepid airs, beneficently tepid, not like thoſe of Peſto, waft odours from ſhore to ſhore: where the continually freſh verdure is rendered increaſingly charming, by the azure of the ſea, and the clearneſs of the atmoſphere; which is almoſt invariable.

The little river Galæſus, which the Spartan colony that ſettled here likewiſe called the *Eurotas*, after a river in Lacedæmonia, empties itſelf, oppoſite the town, into the *Mare Piccolo*.

The banks of this river were formerly famous for their woolly flocks: but the preſent breed of theſe paſtures is not particularly excellent; for the white ſheep die if they feed on a plant that is called *fumolo*. It is very remarkable that the ſheep that have black ſpots on the head, as well as thoſe that are entirely black, or brown, have nothing to fear from this plant. Several people aſſured me of the truth of this fact; and I ſaw many ſheep that had theſe black ſpots on the head, but not one that was entirely white.

In

In the afternoon, we went with the Archbiſhop to a long ſmall cape, in the *Mare Piccolo;* which abounded in various kinds of ſhell fiſh, and white corals.

During our little ſea trip of this day, the weather, with Tarantine levity, had frequently varied, and the winds had blown in all directions; yet they had given us no diſturbance, as they would have done in other places, where ſuch changes are accompanied by ſtorms. The ſouth wind here, nay the ſo much by all Italy dreaded Scirocco, or ſouth eaſt, is pleaſant: but the north wind in this country brings heat.

The great bay of Taranto does not poſſeſs ſo friendly a character as the *Mare Piccolo;* though its beauties are more dignified. During ſtorms, its waves ſwell into foaming billows. Near Taranto, the ſhores are not high: but, on the right, you ſee the ſtill ſnow-covered mountains of the province of *Baſilicata*, which is a part of the ancient *Samnium*, the country of the courageous Samnites; and, on the left, the mountains of *Calabria citra* riſe, formerly *Lucania*, beſide which the voluptuous Sybaris was built.

In the middle of the bay, there are two low

iſlands; the greateſt of which is cultivated, and was called *Electris*, by the ancients. I believe that the inhabitants of the coaſt give it no other name than that of the iſland: or the great iſland.

On the top of a cape, that runs into the ſea on the left, is a watch tower that, after Saint Vitus, is called *San Vito:* many of which towers were erected, on the coaſts of the two Sicilies, by the Emperor, Charles the Fifth. It is the duty of the landholders, on whoſe eſtates theſe towers are built, to keep a man and a horſe continually in readineſs; that an immediate alarm may be given, on the approach or the landing of any corſairs: but this is a duty that is ſeldom fulfilled. In the watch towers that I have viſited, I found no horſe.

Large ſtones lie on the ſtrand of this ſea, in all of which ſhells are found; and there is a grotto of this kind formed in a rock, which is remarkably beautiful: the ſhells being entirely the work of nature, and of time. Good ſalt is depoſited by the water that had been incloſed in many of theſe ſtones.

The river *Tara*, the *Taras* of the ancients, empties itſelf into the great bay; on the ſhores of which the ſame kind of trees grow

that

that embelliſh the *Mare Piccolo*. They both contain many odoriferous gardens: though there are ſome trees that flouriſh better on the banks of the *Mare Piccolo* than on thoſe of the great bay: becauſe the ſalt particles of the latter fill the air, and injure their growth.

In the garden of one of the canons, the *Abbate Tommai*, on the ſhore of the *Mare Piccolo*, I ſaw orange and citron trees equal even to thoſe that I had met with at Sorento; and along with them the fig, the pomegranate, and the apricot tree, of an extraordinary ſize.

By the ſide of this little ſea, and on the banks of the Galæſus, lived the induſtrious huſbandman, whoſe garden is ſo charmingly deſcribed by Virgil. I can the leſs reſiſt the temptation of tranſcribing this delightful paſſage, becauſe the deſcription is as applicable to the preſent gardens, of this country, as to the paſt: except that I muſt remark that Virgil has either given a poetical power to Winter, which it did not poſſeſs, or, in his days, the climate of theſe fortunate lands was much leſs mild than it is at preſent.

Namque ſub Oebaliæ memini me turribus altis,*
Qua niger humectat flaventia culta Galæſus,

Corycium

* Virgil calls Tarentum, which was a Spartan colony, Oebalia,

Corycium * *vidiſſe ſenem: cui pauca relicti*
Jugera ruris erant; nec fertilis illa juvencis,
Nec pecori opportuna ſeges, nec commoda Baccho.
Hic rarum tamen in dumis olus, albaque circum
Lilia, verbenaſque premens, veſcumque papaver,
Regum æquabat opes animis; ſeraque revertens
Nocte domum, dapibus menſas onerabat inemptis.
Primus vere roſam atque auctumno carpere poma;
Et quum triſtis hiems etiamnum frigore ſaxa
Rumperet, et glacie curſus frenaret aquarum,
Ille comam mollis jam tondebat hyacinthi,
Æſtatem increpitans ſeram Zephyroſque morantes.
Ergo apibus fœtis idem atque examine multo
Primus abundare, et ſpumantia cogere preſſis
Mella favis; illi tiliæ atque uberrima pinus;
Quotque in flore novo pomis ſe fertilis arbos
Induerat, totidem auctumno matura tenebat.
Ille etiam ſeras in verſum diſtulit ulmos,
Eduramque pirum, et ſpinos jam pruna ferentes,
Jamque miniſtrantem platanum potantibus umbras.

VIRG. Georg. iv. 125.

For where, with ſtately tow'rs, *Tarentum* ſtands,
And deep *Galeſus* ſoaks the yellow ſands,
I chanc'd an old *Corycian* ſwain to know
Lord of few acres, and thoſe barren too:
Unfit for ſheep, or vines, and more unfit to ſow:
Yet lab'ring well his little ſpot of ground,
Some ſcattering potherbs here and there he found:

Oebalia, after an ancient King of Sparta, Oebalus, the father of Tyndarus.

* Corycus, a promontory of Cilicia. Pompey granted lands in Italy, on this coaſt, to the conquered pirates of Aſia Minor. See the remarks of Voſs.

Which, cultivated with his daily care,
And bruis'd with vervain, were his daily fare.
Sometimes white lilies did their leaves afford,
With wholeſome poppy flow'rs to mend his homely board;
For, late returning home, he ſupped at eaſe,
And wiſely deem'd the wealth of monarchs leſs:
The little of his own, becauſe his own, did pleaſe.
To quit his care, he gather'd firſt of all
In ſpring the roſes, apples in the fall:
And when cold winter ſplit the rocks in twain,
And ice the running rivers did reſtrain,
He ſtripp'd the bears-foot of its leafy growth;
And, calling weſtern winds, accus'd the ſpring of ſloth.
He therefore firſt among the ſwains was found,
To reap the product of his labour'd ground,
And ſqueeze the combs with golden liquor crown'd.
His limes were firſt in flow'rs; his lofty pines,
With friendly ſhade, ſecur'd his tender vines.
For ev'ry bloom his trees in ſpring afford,
An autumn apple was by tale reſtor'd.
He knew to rank his elms in even rows;
For fruit the grafted pear-tree to diſpoſe;
And tame to plums, the ſourneſs of the ſloes.
With ſpreading planes he made a cool retreat,
To ſhade good fellows from the ſummer's heat.

DRYDEN, v. 186.

Though Virgil makes the old Cilician

"Call on the weſtern winds, accuſe the ſpring of ſloth,"

yet this might only be to repreſent the poor prejudiced wanderer as preferring his own country

country to this new place of abode. I doubt whether the eaſt part of Cilicia, lying under Mount Taurus, enjoyed ſo mild a climate as the weſt of Tarentum: though the latter is three degrees more to the north.

The ſouth of Paleſtine had more ſevere winters than the kingdoms of Sicily and Naples: as we may clearly learn from the Scriptures, from paſſages in the book of the ſon of Sirach, and from the 147th Pſalm.

" He (the Lord) giveth ſnow like wool: he " ſcattereth the hoar froſt like aſhes."

" He caſteth forth his ice like morſels. " Who can ſtand before his cold*?"

The ſon of Sirach ſpeaks thus:

" As birds flying, he ſcattereth the ſnow; " and the falling down thereof is as the light- " ing of graſshoppers.

" The eye marvelleth at the beauty of the " whiteneſs thereof; and the heart is aſto- " niſhed at the raining of it.

" The hoar froſt alſo, as ſalt, he poureth " on the earth; and, being congealed, it lieth " on the top of ſharp ſtakes.

" When the cold north wind bloweth, and

* Pſalm cxlvii. v. 16 and 17.

" the

" the water is congealed into ice, it abideth " upon every gathering together of water, " and clotheth the water as with a breaſt- " plate *."

In the country round Taranto, they have no froſt; nor do they ſee any ſnow, except that which lies even during ſummer on the mountains of the province of Baſilicata, on the other ſide of the bay. From theſe they procure ice in the midſt of ſummer; which they eat with many of their fruits, and mix with their beverage. Horace celebrates the mild winter and the long ſpring of Tarentum.

The planting of large trees, by the Cilician countryman of Virgil, is a proof that the people at that time knew how to profit by the goodneſs of the ſoil, near the *Mare Piccolo*. The fruit trees very quickly attain an extraordinary growth; and nobler kinds of them no doubt are reared now than were known to thoſe ages. At leaſt, it does not appear that the ancients knew how to cultivate all the *agrumi* of Italy, which now ſo greatly contribute to embelliſh and render this land a paradiſe.

* Eccleſiaſticus, chap. xliii. v. 17 to 20. The verſes, as divided in the German and Engliſh tranſlation of the Apocrypha, do not correſpond. T.

There

There are not only many ſhells, found on the ſhore of the *Mare Piccolo*, but numberleſs fragments of Greek earthen vaſes, both there and in the vicinity of the town. It is conjectured that there was a manufactory for theſe vaſes, oppoſite to where traces are ſeen of an ancient wall.

There is a road to theſe ſhores which, probably from ancient tradition, is called Goldſmith's way. Bits of gold are ſtill occaſionally found among the pebbles, the potſherds, and the ſhells. The Archbiſhop knew an old man, who ſeldom miſſed a day without collecting ſome gold, which the ſea had caſt up; and by this means he made a handſome livelihood.

Yeſterday, being the 10th, the Tarantines kept the feſtival of their patron, Saint Cataldus; who was an Iriſhman, and, according to the legend, arrived here in the ſecond century; though I doubt whether, at that time, Chriſtianity had travelled as far as Ireland. The love of antiquity may eaſily have thrown back the æra when this biſhop lived a few centuries. During the eighth ninth and tenth centuries, when the Italians were ſunk into barbariſm, ſome Hibernians came there who

who taught the ſciences, nay more the Latin language, in Italy; and principally in Pavia, and Bologna.

The Tarantines, as chriſtians, take no leſs delight in their holidays than did their anceſtors, as Pagans. They will ride miles, from all parts, to be preſent at the feſtivals of other towns: for which reaſon many perſons had arrived from the neighbouring places, on the preſent occaſion: the number of which viſitors was eſtimated at ten thouſand.

The magiſtracy of the town intended me the honour of making me bear a ſtar, before the ſolemn proceſſion of the Saint: from which project they were with difficulty diverted, by the Archbiſhop. His authority, and not my hereſy, was my protection.

The lower orders are extremely credulous. The principal object of adoration among the men, and ſtill more among many of the women, appears to be the ſilver image of the Saint. With no leſs zeal than that recorded by St. Paul, they ſeemed to emulate the Epheſians; while they exclaimed, "Great is Cataldo, the patron of Taranto!"

The

The ſtatue had been taken from its ſhrine, and placed in the middle of the church, the preceding day; on the 9th, in the afternoon. You can form no conception of the clamour of the people; or of the loud mixture of riotous mirth, and fleeting devotion. The women uttered their feelings with tears, howlings, and hideous grimaces. Men and women, all were deſirous of touching the Saint: ſome with their lips, others with the hand, and the moſt devout with their garments. One woman ſucceſsfully opened herſelf a paſſage through the crowd, placed herſelf fervently before the image, gazed at it, and prayed to it, to excite its attention, as people are accuſtomed to do to thoſe whom they would awaken from a reverie. *Hiſt! Hiſt! San Cataldo! San Cataldo!* A merchant converſed with me as zealouſly, concerning the uncovering of the image, as if he had ſpoken of the actual appearance of the Saint; although he knew he was talking to a heretic, for he had queſtioned me, the Sunday before, whether I would not go to maſs? and I had told him I was not a Catholic. His terror deprived him of all reply. In his panic,

not

not knowing how to conceal it and forgetful of what he was doing, he ſuddenly attempted to kiſs both my hands.

The divine ſervice of yeſterday was long; for in Taranto, and in Brindiſi, the ancient *Brunduſium*, the epiſtles and goſpels are always read firſt in Greek, and then in Latin. The ſolemn proceſſion, with the image through the town, was numerouſly attended.

According to the ancient Greek cuſtom, the day of the town patron, πολιοῦχος, was devoted to national games. A high pole, which was ſoaped two thirds of its height, was erected before the gate, in honour of San Cataldo. A wheel was faſtened above, which was hung round with hams, fowls, flaſks, cheeſes, ſauſages, and viands. To climb up this pole was the taſk; and, after many vain attempts and tumbles, at length one adventurer took poſſeſſion of the wheel. Loud ſhouts of joy then reſounded from the place, the city walls, and the round towers: all of which were covered with the thronging multitude. This was a peep into Grecian antiquity.

The people are handſome; and, among

the women, I saw many truly Greek beauties. I did not find that undeviating surface, which descends from the forehead to the nose and chin in a right line: a line which certainly can only exist in nature as an exception, is rather uncommon than beautiful, was first used by artists who were guilty of excess, and afterward received among the dilettanti as the section of ideal beauty: but a gentle projecting, which effectually connected in many the right lined nose with the small forehead.

The women wear their hair platted behind, and wound round the head; as we see it in the busts of the Grecian women, and especially of the Muses. The people of rank subject themselves to the fashion; and thus lose very much in comparison with those who adopt this beautiful costume.

Both sexes are well proportioned. The women here are fair complexioned; though, in the other parts of Puglia, they are still as swarthy as the Apulians were in the times of Horace; whose usurer, Alphius, overcome for a moment by rational feelings, sighs after the country and wishes for a wife:

Sabino

Sabina qualis, aut perusta solibus
Pernicis uxor Appuli.

HOR. Epod. 2.

Of sun burnt charms but honest fame,
Such as the Sabine or Apulian dame.

FRANCIS.

Many of the Tarantine women have fair hair, and blue eyes.

This handsome people were yesterday particularly jocular; and, after the Italian manner, ornamented with various colours.

The conqueror of the hams and saussages played many tricks upon the wheel, took one of the flasks and drank to the honour of the Saint and of the city, and descended by a rope, which was fastened laterally to a wall, sometimes swinging by the hands, and at others holding by the legs.

When this diversion was over, they had an ass race; and of many a one of these courSers it might well have been said, as Boileau has remarked of Rosinante, that

Galoppa, dit l'histoire, une fois dans sa vie.

History says he once began to gallop.

Others ran foot races; and some were tied in a sack, so that, if they fell, they could not rise without help.

Mildneſs is the character of the people. With the vivacity of ſouthern nations, they are eaſily excited, and eaſily appeaſed. Amid their zeal, they are tolerant; and there is dignity in the toleration of zeal. Nothing but ſtupidity, or knavery, and more frequently the laſt, will praiſe the toleration of indifference.

There are many Greek words in the Tarantine dialect. The Archbiſhop cauſed a copy of theſe words, as collected by the Abbate Tommai, to be tranſcribed for me; moſt of which I here encloſe.

There is a kind of manufacture here, which has deſcended from mother to daughter, probably from the times of the Greeks. A ſpecies of ſhell-fiſh, called *pinna*, the leaſt of which are ſome inches and the largeſt may be an ell long, afford a tuft of fine hair, or threads, of poliſhed green colour *. The Archbiſhop

* It is proved that the *pinna*, and its poliſhed tuft, were known to the ancients. They gave the tuft the name of εριον πινναιον: or, Pinna wool. The Tarantines ſtill call the fiſh *pinna*; but the tuft *lana peſce*: or fiſh wool †.

Tertullian likewiſe tells us, in his work *De Pallio*:

† *Claud. Salmaſii Plinianæ Exercitat. p.* 792. *Edit. Trajecti ad Rhenum* MDCLXXXIX.

Nec

Archbiſhop had the goodneſs to ſend for ſome women, to work while we were preſent. The art is ſimple. The tufts are taken from the fiſh, are waſhed twice with ſoap, three times in clear water, then heckled *, and afterward ſpun from the diſtaff: after which they take three threads, wind them, and out of them knit gloves, ſtockings, and entire garments. They have the gloſs of the cloth called *drap de vigogne*, ſit eaſily, and look handſomely. They likewiſe take two ſuch threads for knitting, and add a third of ſilk; and the manufacture is then more durable, but leſs beautiful.

Theſe ſtuffs loſe their gloſs, and their green colour, when they are placed by the ſide of woollen garments. All aromatics likewiſe are

Nec fuit ſatis tunicam pingere et ſerere, ni etiam pilcari veſtitum contigiſſet. Nam et de mari vellera, quæ muſcoſæ lanoſitatis lautiores conchæ comant. And the father of the church, *Saint Baſil*, ſays in one of his homilies, Ποθεν το χρυσεν ἐριον αι πιννται τρεφουσιν, ὁπερ οὐδεις των ἀνθοβαφων ἐμιμησατο; —"Whence had the pinna its gold coloured wool? that colour which is inimitable!"

* I know not why our dictionary writers ſay that *hatchel* is the true word, and *heckle* a corruption: adding at the ſame time that it is derived from the German In the German, the verb is *hecheln:* the *ch* pronounced hard. T.

ſtill more injurious to them; and they are beſt preſerved when worn with linen. After the gloſs has been loſt, by wear, it may be reſtored, by lemon juice, and water.

A woman, who ſhewed us the manufacture, ſent me ſmall ſamples of the raw thread; alſo in its different ſtates: waſhed, heckled, ſpun, and knit.

I gave her a trifle, ſhe bluſhed, and, with true cordiality and ſenſibility, requeſted that, before my departure, ſhe might bring me a pair of gloves. The next day ſhe came to the Archbiſhop, and entreated him to intercede with me to take the gloves, which ſhe brought me the ſame evening.

I muſt not forget to tell you of a ſingular requeſt. A monk came, when I was preſent, ſent by the young novices*, to the Archbiſhop, and whiſpered him to petition me to petition the monk that he might grant them permiſſion to go into the town in the evening, and ſee the illumination, in honour of the Saint. Accordingly, the Archbiſhop petitioned me, I petitioned the monk, and he complied.

The Archbiſhop ſhewed us two ſmall lakes,

* *Seminariſten.*

formed by rain water, called *Salſine*. As it has not rained for a length of time, the leaſt is entirely dry; and the other partly. The leaſt is called *Salſina*, from its reſemblance to the greateſt; and this is ſo called becauſe it yields ſalt, which needs no preparation. The earth of its bed has a ſalt taſte; and, as the rain waters that have collected begin to dry up, they leave this ſalt behind them. Its uſe is forbidden, to ſecure the royal ſalt works at Barletta from loſs: but this prohibition is little regarded by the peaſants, who frequently come armed, and ſupply themſelves with ſalt.

Their complaints of this prohibition are well founded: though they are wrong at being angry that the King intends to dry up theſe lakes; for the inhabitants of the vicinity confeſs that their exhalations, during ſummer, are unhealthy.

I have been able to obtain no ſatisfactory account of that kind of venomous ſpider, which, after this town, has been called *tarantula*. You know it has been aſſerted of the tarantula that its venomous bite inſpires a deep melancholy, which frequently ends in death, and can only be cured by violent dancing. Neither will the ſick perſon dance till the

muſician has happened upon the air that pleaſes him, and the ſame air will not produce the ſame effect on all patients.

The reaſons which have long been alleged, in oppoſition to this ſtory, appear to me very ſtrong; if not unanſwerable. It is firſt ſtated that the ancients ſay nothing of this dance; and next, this practice is confined to Puglia, although the tarantula is likewiſe found in Sicily, at Rome, at Tivoli, and in many parts of Italy, as well as in Puglia. If the heat of Puglia render the bite of the tarantula particularly dangerous, muſt not the heat of the ſouth of Sicily do the ſame? Why ſhould the bite be ſo dangerous at Taranto, where the air is ſo mild? Ought we not to aſcribe the danger, and the effect produced by dancing, to the lively imagination of the Tarantines; or rather of the Tarantine women?

In the third place, the bite is ſaid only to be dangerous in the hot months; though I hear that theſe dancers are exhibited for money at the beginning of May. To this it may be anſwered that, having been cured by dancing, whenever they hear the ſame muſic played again the livelineſs of their imagination once more makes them begin to dance with violence,

violence, and even with convulſions. But is it not highly probable that there is often knavery at the bottom?

Beſide, the imagination, to which we are indebted for ſo much good and evil, acting upon the inhabitants of Italy over whom it is ſo powerful, may here double its effects. The perſuaſion that the bite of the tarantula excites melancholy may, in thoſe who have been bitten, be actually productive of melancholy; and the perſuaſion likewiſe that dancing will cure them may as readily excite them to dance, and as effectually afford them relief*. Animated and exceſſive motion, which at laſt ſinks into laſſitude, is of itſelf an excellent remedy.

We muſt not forget that more women fall into this melancholy than men, and are cured by dancing.

What was the origin of this opinion? Is it not probable that the malady called St. Vitus' dance raged in Puglia; which malady, at certain times, has been ſeen in Germany, at-

* How far all diſeaſe, external violence excepted, begins with and is ſubject to the imagination, will ſoon, I hope, be a topic of ſerious and general enquiry. T.

tended

tended with ſuch terrific appearances? Saint Vitus, who is called *San Vito* by the Italians, is principally honoured in Puglia.

I have ſeen a living tarantula. It was grey on the back, and white on the belly, with clear brown ſpots. It had not attained its full growth. In the middle of ſummer, it is as large as the largeſt ſpiders. At this time the back becomes black; and even the ſpots on the belly of the ſame colour.

We this morning left the charming Taranto, the remembrance of which will ever be dear to me.

In his ode to Septimius, Horace wiſhes to end his life either at Tibur, that is Tivoli, or at Tarentum.

Tibur Argeo poſitum colono *
Sit meæ ſedes utinam ſenectæ!
Set modus laſſo maris et viarum
Militiæque!

* Tibur was founded by Tiburs: who was likewiſe called Tiburnus; and, by Virgil Tiburtius: He came from Arcadia, and the Arcadians were known by the epithet Argeii, or Argivi. Aided by his countrymen, Tiburs expelled the ancient inhabitants, and gave the infant colony his own name. This happened in times of the higheſt antiquity.

Unde

Unde si Parcæ prohibent iniquæ,
Dulce pellitis ovibus Galesi *
Flumen, et regnata petam Laconi
Rura Phalanto.

Ille terrarum mihi præter omnes
Angulus ridet: ubi non Hymetto †
Mella decedunt, viridique certat
Bacca Venafro ‡:

Ver ubi longum, tepidasque præbet
Jupiter brumas, et amicus Aulon §
Fertili Baccho minimum Falernis
Invidet uvis.

Ille te mecum locus et beatæ
Postulant arces: ibi tu calentem
Debitâ sparges lachrymâ favillam
Vatis amici.

HOR. lib. ii. od. 6.

* The wool of this sheep was so highly esteemed that they clothed the animal, to protect it from brambles. To explain the *pellitis ovibus* would require a long commentary.

† Hymettus, a mountain of Attica, having much thyme and other odoriferous plants, was supposed to afford the best honey in the world. The honey of Taranto, likewise celebrated by Horace, is excellent.

‡ *Venafrum*, now *Venafro*, a small town in Campania, was famous for its oil.

§ A hill in the neighbourhood of Tarentum. I doubt whether it can be determined which hill was meant. My enquiries were fruitless.

May

May Tibur, to my lateſt hours,
Afford a kind and calm retreat;
Tibur, beneath whoſe lofty towers
The Grecians fix'd their bliſsful ſeat;
There may my labours and my wanderings ceaſe,
There all my toils of warfare reſt in peace.

But, ſhould the partial Fates refuſe
That purer air to let me breathe,
Galeſus, thy ſweet ſtream I'll chooſe,
Where flocks of richeſt fleeces bathe.
Phalantus there his rural ſceptre ſway'd,
Uncertain offspring of a Spartan maid.

No ſpot ſo joyous ſmiles to me
Of this wide Globe's extended ſhores;
Where nor the labours of the bee
Yield to Hymettus' golden ſtores:
Nor the green berry, of Venafran ſoil,
Swells with a riper flood of fragrant oil.

There Jove his kindeſt gifts beſtows;
There joys to crown the fertile plains.
With genial warmth the winter glows,
And ſpring with lengthen'd honours reigns.
Nor Aulon, friendly to the cluſtering vine,
Envies the vintage of Falernian wine.

FRANCIS.

APPEN-

APPENDIX TO LETTER LXXX.

Examples of Tarantine words derived from the Greek:

Angelo di Trappeto, is a veſſel into which the oil drops out of the preſs: from ἀγγος, a vaſe for fluids.

Anchiato, or *Onchiato:* ſwollen: from ογκος, a tumour: ὀγκωδης, ſwollen.

Alazza, *Lazza:* to breathe: to breathe out: from Ἀαζειν, warm out breathing.

'Ale! An exclamation common at maſquerades, from the war cry of the Greeks, ἀλαλη.

Ammazarato, an epithet ſignifying ill baked bread: probably from the Greek μαζα; which, according to Heſychius, ſignified meal that was kneaded with water and oil.

Arialio, the loom: probably from ἐργαλεῖον, a tool.

Apulo, a ſoft egg: from απαλος, ſoft, tender.

Arrotare, to terrify by noiſe. It is likewiſe uſed for a howling dog: from ῥόθος, noiſe.

Accatuſari, to dip in the ſea: probably from the participle of the word κατειμι, I go down: κατιων, κατιϑσα, κατιον.

Biſacchiato, and *Abiſſacchiato*: ſwollen: puffed

puffed up: probably from φυσᾶν, φυσσᾶν, to blow out.

Cata, *Incata:* uſed in many caſes like the Greek κατα. It is likewiſe contracted by the people, and only *ca* uttered.

Camaſcia, wearineſs: from καματος.

Cona, an image: from εἰκων.

Coquiglia, a kind of ſhell fiſh: from κογχυλιον.

Coſifago, a ſpecies of the *beccafico;* a little well taſted bird, ſo called by the Italians, and which, during the fig ſeaſon, eats ſo voraciouſly of this fruit as occaſionally to fall down dead: from συκοφαγος.

Cilona, the tortoiſe: from χελωνη.

Cardaſcia, a beloved: from καρδία, the heart: or rather from the adjective καρδιακος, to afflict the heart.

Camolare, to be vexed: from καμνειν.

Geloſo, in Italian, means jealous: but it is combined by the Tarantines with the idea of ridiculous. *Sei ciluſo;* thou art ridiculous; ſay they: from γελοιος.

Jetta, a lock of hair: from χαιτη, the hair of the head.

Melana, the black gall of the fiſh *ſepia:* from μελας, μελαινα, μελαν, black.

Oſimo,

Oſimo, odour: from ὀσμη.

Ottato, a kind of fig, good to dry: probably from ὀπτᾶν, to roaſt, to dry.

Paradiſo. Every woody valley is ſo called by the Tarantines: from the Greek παραδεισος, which ſignifies an encloſed park for animals. A word which the Greeks may have borrowed from the Perſian language, and the Perſian from the Hebrew.

Patimoſo, marſhy: *Patimiſco*, a river: from ποταμος, a river.

Rummato, ſwept: from the Greek ῥυμμα.

Sia! an exclamation among the Tarantines, to the boatmen, when the boat being kept in the ſame place is ſwayed from ſide to ſide, by the oar: from σειειν, to ſhake, to move.

Sione, a ſignal: Σημειον.

Scerſo, deſert, uncultivated: χερσος.

Taraſca, drunkenneſs, delirium: from ταραξις, agitation, delirium.

Uz, *Uzza*, a hog: from the Greek ὑς, and συς. It is likewiſe uſed by the Tarantines when they wiſh to affront and reproach with uglineſs.

Zanzico, marjoram: Σαμψυχον.

I have omitted ſeveral words collected by the

the Abbate Tommai, the derivation of which from the Greek appears to me doubtful. The Italian words, the origin of which are Greek, are numerous, but not unknown to you: for example: *Bambino*, a child: from βαμβαινειν, to chatter.

LETTER LXXXI.

Gallipoli, 17th May 1792.

WE left Taranto on the 12th, and travelled through Manduria, to Oria. This ſtretch of country is very ſtony, yet produces grain in many parts; and ſtill more willingly the vine, the fig, and the olive. We already ſaw the people buſied in getting in the ſeed from their flax. *Rudiæ*, the native place of the poet Ennius, was in this country *.

Manduria is an ancient town. Archidamus, the ſon of Ageſilaus, King of Lacedæmonia and the great-grandfather of Agis, was vanquiſhed by the Calabrians in its neighbourhood.

* Cluv. Ital. Ant.

bourhood *. It was taken and plundered by Fabius, during the ſecond Punic war. Among other booty four thouſand men were taken †.

The origin of Manduria is unknown. It was probably a colony of Oria, which had been founded by the people of Crete. This may be conjectured from the name, and alſo becauſe no coins have been found with the name of the town: though ſome have been lately dug up with the ancient name. The ancient wall is worth examining. Prodigious ſquare ſtones, reſting upon the rock itſelf, the breadth of each of which is one-and-twenty palms, riſe to a very conſiderable height. Thoſe of Pæſtum excepted, which are ſix-and-twenty palms in breadth but by no means ſo high as theſe, there are not any in Italy to equal them. Moſt of the ſtones are full of ſhells, many if which are petrified.

We ſaw a ſpring which Pliny tells us had the ſtrange quality of not becoming more empty if water were laded out, or more full if it were poured in ‡. Paſſing down ſtone ſteps, we came to an arching rock, where this

* Plut. Life of Agis. † Liv. xxvii. 15.

‡ Plin. ii. c. 103.

clear ſpring, in eternal ſhades, affords a cool and refreſhing beverage. Theſe rocks likewiſe every where abound in ſhells.

In this country, nature appears beautiful, and beneficent; and, like the fabulous Sphinx, preſents enigmas which no ſcientific *Oedipus* has been able to ſolve.

Theſe curioſities were ſhewn us by an ancient nobleman, whoſe ſon-in-law took much pleaſure in exhibiting his little collection of wrought precious ſtones; ſome of which were beautiful. Gems, cameos, vaſes frequently, and ancient coins almoſt daily, are diſcovered over the whole province of *Terra d'Otranto*. The young gentleman appeared delighted with his own, although he was blind. Where is the wonder? How frequently do we ſee the blind dotage of the dilettanti, and pretended connoiſſeurs! His agreeable lady, who had borne him eight children, preſented to us, with a mother's pleaſure, her little boy that was ten months old.

At the houſe of Canon Camarario, we ſaw a fine collection of Greek vaſes.

This town had long been called *Caſal novo*: but the inhabitants petitioned the King laſt year

year for a decree, according to which it has recovered its ancient name, Manduria.

Between Manduria and Oria, which are a German mile diſtant from each other, there are hollows, cut in the rocky ſoil, or dry canals; one of which is three Italian miles in length. Theſe muſt have been the work of early and rude times. We can learn nothing concerning them from the known cuſtoms of later ages: it may be that the people, when the coaſt was infeſted with ſea pirates, withdrew, with their wives, children, ſervants, and cattle, into theſe cavities; where defence was more eaſy.

Oria belongs to the moſt ancient colonies of Greece. Herodotus * aſcribes its foundation to the Cretans; and to an age when the dreams of Greek fable began to aſſume the conſiſtency of hiſtory. Minos purſued Dædalus, who, to avoid his wrath, fled to Sicily, and there was murdered. After a time, the people of Crete ſailed over with a large force, to revenge the death of the King; and continued, for five years, to beſiege Camicus, a city of the Siculi. Their purpoſe defeated, they took ſhipping to return home; but were

* Lib. vii.

overtaken by a ſtorm, and caſt on the coaſt of the Japyges: where, their ſhips being deſtroyed, they built the town which Herodotus calls *Hyria*. By others it was named *Uria*, and *Ureton*: but many ancient coins, ſome of which were found at *Oria*, denote that its ancient name was *Orra*. The Greeks, like the preſent Italians, ſoftened the harſh ſounds of names; and in its preſent name, *Oria*, you recognize, with little alteration, the ancient name, *Orra*.

The town is built on a hill, which towers over a row of leſſer hills, that extend from north to ſouth. There is a proſpect over a wide plain to the eaſt. The ſituation delighted ſtrangers; but they were obliged to be upon their guard, againſt the attacks of the neighbouring people. We were at the houſe of the Biſhop, who poſſeſſes a large collection of Greek vaſes; and a ſtill larger of ancient coins. Among others, he has ſix hundred different coins of Tarentum.

There is a German, who lives in Oria, whoſe hiſtory is remarkable. His father and grandfather fell, in the year 1734, at the unfortunate battle of Bitonto, fought between the Germans and the Spaniards: by which the fate

fate of the Two Sicilies was determined, in favour of the houſe of Bourbon. His mother was in the rear of the ranks; and was ſhot, as ſhe ſprang forward to protect her huſband. Their only boy, whom they had brought from Germany to Italy ſwaddled in oil cloth, they had left in Oria, with two compaſſionate young ladies; by whom he was brought up. The boy was induſtrious, and he is now a teacher in the ſeminary. All the money he could ſpare, he expends in forming a collection of coins; which he began ten years ago, and which is now very conſiderable. Although he neither recollects his country, his parents, nor can ſpeak a word of German, yet he is an enthuſiaſtic admirer of Germany, and a moſt zealous defender of the houſe of Auſtria. Since the travels of his childhood, he ſcarcely has left this place. The utmoſt of his peregrinations have been no farther than Lecce, and Oſtuni; each of which is a day's journey from Oria. As a man of learning, he is equally ſincere and capable.

Noble fruit trees are planted round the town of Oria; and the aloe grows on both ſides of the road, which has already puſhed

forth its buds. The fig trees are large. I have ſeen none ſuperior, except near the walls of Manduria.

On the 13th, we journeyed to Brindiſi, the ancient Brunduſium: a place of high antiquity. Its foundation has been aſcribed by ſome to the Cretans, from Orra; and by others to Theſeus, who is ſaid to have landed there, on his return from Crete to Athens. It is likewiſe given to Diomedes, whom ſo many of the towns in *Grecia magna* conſider as their founder. The Meſſapii called it *Brentiſium*, from the double craggy form of its haven; which word it is affirmed, at that time, denoted, in the language of this people, the head of a ſtag *. Many circumſtances have concurred to reduce this formerly great city to the little Brindiſi, whoſe inhabitants are not computed at more than ſix thouſand ſouls.

Brunduſium in Italy, and in Greece *Epidaurus*, which is likewiſe called *Epidamnus*, and, becauſe of the inauſpicious ſignification of the word *damnum*, was changed by the Romans to *Dyrrachium*, were the two ports of paſſage. The moderns, from *Dyrrachium*, have formed *Durazzo*. At preſent, the veſſels

* Cluv. Ital. Ant.

from

from Brindiſi are few, and ſmall. The Appian way was continued by Auguſtus from Capua to Brunduſium. The preſent roads that lead to Brindiſi are bad, the trade of the place is trifling, and the air very unhealthy.

During the civil wars, Cæſar ruined the haven; by caſting up dams, and ſinking veſſels. He ſays nothing of ſtaking it up; neither do I think that there is any good ground for the opinion that the oak piles, which were found there, were of Cæſar's driving. The inner haven is curving, and longeſt toward the north; and it waſhes the walls of the town. This haven is very large, but the outer haven is ſtill larger. The two havens are united by a ſtrait; which formerly was narrow, has ſince been widened, and which is formed by the outſtretching of the oppoſite ſhores. The curving of the coaſt is aided by ſeveral rocky iſlands in forming the outer haven; and on the largeſt of theſe iſlands a fortreſs is built. There are two fine entrances to this haven; one to the north eaſt, and the other to the ſouth eaſt: but they frequently bring with them much ſand, and mud; for many rivers empty themſelves into the ſmall Adriatic. This has greatly injured

the paſſage of the inner haven; the waters of which, as their reflux is partly prevented, overflow the banks, and occaſion much unwholeſome air. This is augmented by a kind of putrid ſea weed; and by the waters of a rivulet, which is frequently ſo ſwelled with rains as to inundate the country, before it can arrive at the inner haven.

There were formerly two large Corinthian pillars, that were placed at the entrance of the inner and ſmaller haven, one of which is ſtill entire; but of the other the pedeſtal only remains. The opinion that lanterns were ſuſpended from an architrave I think is evidently erroneous: becauſe, for the lights to have been diſcoverable at ſea, they muſt have been placed on a tower of the caſtle, facing the great haven. Theſe great pillars of white marble were probably only an ornamental boundary, to the entrance from the city to the inner haven. Statues of the Roman Emperors probably were placed upon them; as formerly on the pillars of Trajan, and Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, at Rome.

Don Carlo Pollio, a hydraulic engineer, who had before been accuſtomed to different undertakings of the ſame kind, is at preſent

employed in improving the inner haven, and relieving Brindiſi from its unwholeſome air. The marſhy places have been filled up with earth, and converted into gardens. The caſting up of the ſea weed is prevented by ſtone dams; and the little which can gain admiſſion, by paſſing theſe, is dragged on high places in the ſpring, where it dries before the beginning of the heats. The whole inner haven is banked with rough ſtone; upon which, according to the nature of this country, a kind of odoriferous moſs is propagated, the influence of which is good*. The entrance to the great haven is cleanſed by mud-rakes, the high ſhores are planted with elms, and the rivulet is conducted to the ſea by a ſubterranean paſſage, under a hill.

Don Carlo had the kindneſs, with the utmoſt complacency, to accompany us in perſon and point out theſe improvements.

By the removing of a high bank, the earth of which was to fill up a marſhy place, the

* In different parts of the Mediterranean, and particularly in the bay of Naples and near Poſilipo and Sorento, odoriferous ſea weeds are depoſited, by certain winds, on the rocks of the ſhore. After being dried, they remain continually odoriferous: lying like a ſilver coloured ſoft moſs, and forming pleaſant ſeats.

lower

lower part of the wall of a houſe was lately diſcovered, which muſt have been inhabited by a Roman. Here were ſeen the diviſions of the lower apartments, the bath, the conduit to the bath, and the flooring of a bed chamber, inlaid with moſaic work; in which the words *Bene dormio*, I ſleep well, were formed with blue ſtones. A female ſtatue without a head, and two heads of ancient philoſophers, were likewiſe found.

About the end of the ſixteenth century, Brindiſi muſt have contained forty thouſand inhabitants. During the long war, which the Venetians waged againſt the Turks, a fleet of the republic harboured in this haven. The Venetians were pleaſed with the wine of the country, which is really good, and paid for it liberally. Miſled by this temporary advantage, the inhabitants of Brindiſi rooted up their olive trees, and every where planted the vine. When the Venetians left the city, the extraordinary ſale of their wine failed, and the ſure produce of their oil was gone. This circumſtance, in addition to the badneſs of the air, accelerated the decay of the city. The inhabitants have a bloated and pallid appearance.

On the road to Lecce, we found more plantations of the olive than of the vine, or of grain; though the latter flouriſhes.

On the morning of the 14th, after we had left Brindiſi, my horſe became reſtive. He was a ſtrong, handſome, but rather obſtinate, ſtallion, from Taranto; and no unworthy repreſentative of the ancient Saturian ſteed. He loſt his balance, fell backward, and threw me over. Yet, though he fell upon me, he did me no injury, but ſprang lightly on his legs, and was ſo far warned, by this experiment, that he behaved more orderly on the following day.

Lecce, the principal city of the whole province, is large; though it contains only eighteen thouſand inhabitants. The ſtreets are generally right lined, and the public buildings capacious: though they are the work of a bewildered imagination, which could not ſatisfy itſelf with the noble Greek architecture, without a mixture of the Gothic.

This city was called, by Strabo, *Aletion*. As coins have been found in this peninſula, with the word Λυκιαιων, of the people of Lycia, and as no trace of any city of this name is known, ſome have conjectured, and not improbably,

improbably, that the ancient name of *Lecce* might have been *Lycia*.

We found but little room in the inn; and, having letters of recommendation, we went to two perſons who took us to a coffee houſe, that was roomy and handſome. Here we remained ſeveral hours, ſurrounded by a tolerably numerous and inquiſitive company; and were then taken to a palace, the owner of which was abſent, where, though it was late, we were well entertained. The palace and its furniture might be called beautiful in the largeſt city of Europe.

Thanks are due to the Italians, for the hoſpitality with which they receive travellers; otherwiſe it would be difficult to travel in theſe provinces, where ſometimes there are no inns, and where the inns are generally wretched. But the misfortune is they are too kind. You may plead in vain that you have more need of reſt than of feaſting: they cannot conceive the neceſſity there is for any repoſe. You are obliged to remain for hours in company with idle, talkative, and inquiſitive men; and, when it is late, are introduced to a plentiful ſupper. They forget that the traveller has to riſe early; and is frequently deprived

prived of the afternoon ſleep by which he ſhould recruit his ſtrength. Thus, after travelling a whole day, you ſeldom have gone more than four or five German miles, in a country where the horſes and mules are in general very bad. I am contented to travel no further in a day; but I would rather do it in a ſhorter time, and repoſe during the heat of the ſun.

The royal governor of the province, who likewiſe ſits as preſident of the tribunal, reſides at Lecce. An appeal lies from this provincial tribunal, in civil cauſes, to the chief court in Naples, for ſo ſmall a ſum as two hundred Neapolitan ducats: equal to two hundred rix-dollars. Four perſons, who are called *Miniſtri*, regularly ſit as aſſiſtants to the governor: but they muſt not be natives of the province. This cuſtom appears to me to denote the ancient Spaniſh ſpirit, of jealous and political caution. Would not the people place more confidence in their fellow citizens than in perſons who are preferred only becauſe they come from another province? And what can be of greater importance than the confidence placed by citizens in the adminiſtration

ſtration of juſtice? I conceive indeed it would be a narrow mode of thinking to exclude ſtrangers: but I am perſuaded the excluſion of natives is ſtill more ſevere.

In addition to the tolls and the ſalt revenue, which article the inhabitants are obliged to purchaſe from the royal ſalt works of Barletta, the city annually pays the King ſixteen thouſand Neapolitan ducats.

In Lecce, as in different other towns of this kingdom, a *ſedile*, or kind of college, is inſtituted; the members of which conſiſt of the nobility, and a few of the citizens. This college regulates the price of corn, and other viands; and, in times of ſcarcity, muſt take care to proviſion the city. It collects the taxes that do not belong to the King: from which, and other reſources, the ſixteen thouſand ducats are provided. The ſyndic is annually choſen from the noble members of the college.

The roads round Lecce are intolerable. The wheels of carriages have made ſuch deep ruts, in the ſoft ground, that, if the evil be not ſoon remedied, they will be utterly impaſſable. The people have hopes that this neceſſary improvement

provement will be made. Nay the deep holes made by the hoofs of horſes have rendered the road extremely difficult even to horſemen.

The peculiar quality of the rock, which is ſoft when taken from the quarry, and become hardened by the air, occaſions the inhabitants to uſe it for building their large houſes; and their magnificent but inſipid churches, with other public buildings. They decorate their Grecian columns with the extravagancies of Gothic taſte; and overload the very village churches with ornaments in baſſo and alto relievo, which equally betray a want of invention and a miſguided, or rather a depraved, imagination.

The ſoil of the whole peninſula, though it have no conſiderable heights, is rocky; but it is very productive in olives, figs, and grapes. In ſummer, the earth muſt be exceedingly hot; and that it is productive the noble face of nature is a convincing proof. The people are œconomical in the uſe of their land; on which I ſaw whole places bare, the earth of which had been removed from the rocks to ſupply ſpots that were more favourable. I met with good grain.

A German mile and a half from Otranto,

we

we had a prospect of the Adriatic, where it bathes the shores of Greece. We exclaimed, at beholding it, as joyfully as the ten thousand led by Xenophon did, when they viewed the sea, Θαλαττα· Θαλαττα· The sea! The sea! We soon saw the Albanian mountains, or the ancient Epirus, and the *Acroceraunian*, or thundering, rocks, covered with eternal snow:

Infames scopulos, Acroceraunia

HOR. lib. i. od. 3.

——Rocks for shipwrecked fleets ill-fam'd.

FRANCIS.

as Horace says: and the two hills on which *Dulcigno* is built; that nest of daring pirates.

In the neighbourhood of Otranto, there are olive trees of remarkable height. The olive, if it be not lopped, has beauties peculiar to itself; although, in my opinion, its character is gloomy. The fig trees of Otranto are justly celebrated for their extraordinary size and beauty.

Would you believe that the wind that blows over the sea from Greece is at present quite cold? As we approached the town, this wind wafted with it the odours of the lovely orange groves, that surround Otranto.

I have

I have now ſeen Greece, though ſituated beyond the Adriatic. We have frequently wiſhed to take a trip to the iſland of *Corfu*, the *Corcyra*, Κερκυρα, of the ancients, and the *Scheria* of Homer, to viſit the country of the Pheacians, and from that to the Ithaca of Homer, or the little iſland of Cephalonia. Yet, eaſy as this would be in going, it would be difficult to return, becauſe of the ſtrict quarantine; and eſpecially at preſent, as the plague has again broke out in the Morea, or the ancient Peloponneſus.

By the Greeks, Otranto was called *Hydrus*, Ὑδρους, abbreviated from Ὑδροεις, and by the Romans *Hydruntum*. It had been ſo named by the Greeks from the river *Hydrus*; which, although, like ſo many other famed rivers of the ancients, its name ſignified abounding in water, is no more than a brook, that empties itſelf into the ſea at Otranto. This town is the ſeat of an archbiſhop; but contains only three thouſand inhabitants. It is guarded by a ſtrong caſtle, to protect it againſt the inroads of the Turks and pirates.

In the year 1480, under Mahomet the Second, Otranto was taken and plundered by the Turks; and the inhabitants were treated

with cruelty. Probably, according to the ſyſtem of Turkiſh politics, the conqueror of Conſtantinople, who with proud and ſwelling hopes had ſent an army into Italy, intended by ſpreading the terror of his name to ſubdue this beautiful country.

The diſtance of the coaſt of Albania is ſixty Italian miles: that is, fifteen geographical or ten common German miles. We yeſterday ſaw the ſun go down below the *Acroceraunian* mountains. The ancient Greeks thought theſe coaſts ſo remarkable that they gave them no other name than *Æpirus*, or continent; of which the Romans formed *Epirus*. Pyrrhus and Scanderbeg were both natives of this country.

On our road from Otranto to Gallipoli, we yeſterday thus early ſaw barley in ſheaf, and oats that were houſed: yet, in theſe diſtricts, the rocky ſoil is ſcantily covered with earth. We likewiſe travelled through ſeveral foreſts of oak; and ſaw fruit trees, among which the lofty and wide ſpreading fig was not inferior to the large walnut tree.

He who would fully conceive and intimately feel the beautiful idea of the Iſraelites, who "dwelt ſafely, every man under his vine

vine and under his fig tree *," ought to have ſeen the fig trees of this peninſula, and the high vineyards of *Terra di Lavoro;* or Sorento. In the afternoon, we ſaw the ſun ſet below the Mediterranean ſea, which in the morning had riſen over the Adriatic.

Gallipoli is built on a ſmall rocky iſland, on the ſouth ſhore of the bay of Taranto; and communicates with the continent, by the means of a long bridge. The ſituation would have been delightful, had the inhabitants been careful to plant trees. It did not, as many have imagined, receive its name from the Gauls: its origin was Greek, and it was called *Calliopolis*, or charming city: probably becauſe of its ſituation.

The ſeed cotton (allow me to uſe the term) which is called *Bombace* †, is induſtriouſly cultivated in the country round Otranto. It muſt not be confounded with the cotton of Aſia and America, which grows upon trees. This cotton, white as ſnow, is ſpun by the women from the diſtaff. It is beſt manufactured at Gallipoli; and is wove into muſlins,

* I Kings, iv. 25; and Micah, iv. 4.

† Erroneouſly written, as I ſuppoſe, inſtead of *Bambagia.* T.

which have a great exportation. I ſuppoſe theſe ſtuffs to be the *Byſſus* of the ancients.

Gallipoli enjoys a great oil trade. According to the eſtimate of a meritorious man of literature of this place, its annual and average export of oil amounts to nine hundred and ninety-three thouſand eight hundred and four Neapolitan ducats: or, in round numbers, about a million *.

It has not to thank its haven for its trade; which is unſafe, and in which many ſhips have been loſt: but its rocks, in which the magazines for keeping the oil are hewn. Theſe warm rocks have the property of purifying the oil; for which reaſon oils from other parts of the province are brought here, for amelioration.

This trade would no doubt be more flouriſhing if, as the citizens have requeſted, a haven were ſuffered to be built. Art might overcome the obſtacles of nature; and it is eſtimated that the expence of this uſeful improvement would only amount to twenty-five thouſand ducats. Only five-and-twenty thou-

* *Eſame economico del ſiſtema civile.* The author of this valuable work, who has not publiſhed his name, is called *Filippo Briganti*; and is a citizen of Gallipoli.

ſand

ſand ducats! And of this ſmall ſum the citizens have petitioned to pay a part! It is ſaid indeed that it is the *intention* of the King to comply with this juſt demand of the people: but I own I am inclined to think that this neceſſary undertaking has been procraſtinated through the envy of other towns. I have no proof for this conjecture: except that I can no otherwiſe account for ſuch neglect. Neither can I conceive why the wealthy town ſhould not require to pay the whole expence. The mere *permiſſion* for undertaking ſo uſeful a work would not ſurely have been denied them: and how greatly would it have been to their advantage!

It would be equally political and juſt in the State to aboliſh, or at leaſt to lighten the heavy duty which is paid for the exported oil. From eighty to a hundred veſſels annually arrive at this port; and many of them pay a tax of from five to ſeven thouſand ducats.

People juſtly admire the wiſdom of the Engliſh; who, inſtead of taxing their exports like other Governments, allow premiums, and drawbacks: yet, while they admire, they forbear to imitate.

Signor Giovanni Preſta, another man of let-

ters of Gallipoli now living, who has written a very valuable book on the properties of different oils, says that three fifths of the lands in this province are planted with olive trees. And the before-mentioned *Filippo Briganti* maintains that this tree has not been adopted as a foreign plant, from the peninsula; but that it is proper to the soil *.

In this province there is a gum likewise found, which is in high estimation. The people call it *ragia*. It exudes from the olive tree; and only from the olive trees of the province of *Terra di Bari*, and of the peninsula: though principally in the latter. No incision need be made in the bark. Some suppose that the tree spontaneously emits this

* *In fatti, par che la Natura abbia destinate, a la riproduzione degli ulivi, le fertile colline della Iapiggia; ove tutto cio, che rimane abbandonato alla spontanea vegetazione della terra, si vede ricoperto di olivastri; che inalzano le fruttifere chiome al par degli alberi piu speciosi: segno evidente che la forza produttrice del suolo non adotta, ma genera, questa piante.* Nature appears to have destined the fertile hills of Japygia to the production of the olive; where the ground, when left to its own spontaneous efforts, is covered with olive branches; that raise their beautiful foliage equal to that of the finest trees: which evidently shews it is the productive force of the soil that generates, instead of adopting, this plant. *Esame pol. p.* 70.

gum,

gum, which uſually hangs like a tear on the poliſhed bark. The country people ſay there is a kind of butterfly, that lays its egg in the bark; from which a caterpillar is produced, that frequently bores through the branch to the ſap, and through this wound in the branch the gum exudes; but no ſuch are ever found; neither do the ancients mention this caterpillar; though, according to the learned Signor Preſta *, who has written on oil, they deſcribed this gum by the name of Ethiopian tears †.

The wine that is produced in the country of Gallipoli is excellent, when it is allowed to be eight or ten years old.

I had yeſterday agreed with a French captain, who was bound to Dunkirk and ready to ſet ſail, and who would have taken us to Cotrone:

* *Memoria ſu i ſaggi diverſi di olio, e ſu della ragia di ulivo: da* GIOVANNI PRESTA. This is a different work and a much leſs than that which I have cited in Letter LXXIII. by the ſame author, on experiments upon various kinds of oil.

† Signor Preſta, on this occaſion, quotes the following paſſage from BACCIO DE VINIS APPULIS, lib. v. *Gummi hic oleæ exſudant optimum, quod chirurgi Gummi Elemi appellant. Gleba eſt pinguis, ac myrrhæ inſtar fragranti odore,*

Cotrone: but he has juſt been informed that an armed veſſel is waiting for him, off *Capo Santa Maria*, the ancient promontory of *Leuca*. It is probably a veſſel from Trieſte; for I am informed the French have plundered two merchantmen of that place. The poor man is in great tribulation. Amid the general confuſion of the affairs of France, the French conſuls receive no inſtructions from the miniſtry; and therefore can neither give advice nor information.

Surrounded by the ſhips of all nations, the

ut non ſolum in unguento probandam exiſtimem—verum etiam prunis aſperſa ſuffimentum balſami in cameris edit gratioſum, ſuperans thuris et ſtactæ myrrhæ fragrantiam *.——Signor Cotunnio, a celebrated phyſician of Naples, has had the kindneſs to give me a ſample of this gum. When uſed as incenſe, it has a much ſtronger odour than frankincenſe. For this reaſon, Signor Cotunnio forbids it to be uſed by lying-in women, for ſome days; and does not think it good for perſons who have any diſorder of the lungs: in which he differs from a celebrated German phyſician, who had been in Italy. Signor Cotunnio however ſhould be beſt acquainted with its effects; as he is a native of Puglia, and comes from *Ruvo*, which is in the *Terra di Bari*.

* The olive trees here exude an excellent kind of gum, which the ſurgeons call *gum elemi*. It is a fat ſubſtance, and has the fragrant odour of myrrh; and when thrown on hot coals emits a fragrant odour, that exceeds the perfume of frankincenſe, or myrrh.

ſtreamers

ſtreamers of which are flying, this melancholy captain is obliged to conceal his flag: for the French are with good reaſon diſliked here, as they not only afford protection on their coaſts to the African corſairs but give them information at ſea.

Before I quit this province, I muſt do the inhabitants, and particularly thoſe of Puglia, the juſtice to ſtate that they are a worthy people; friendly, diſintereſted, hoſpitable, and with excellent hearts. Would they could recollect that the traveller has more need of repoſe than of reveling! That ſome viſits are pleaſant and intereſting to him, but that he ſtands in need of his moments of leiſure! That he muſt be greatly incommoded, after a hot day's journey, by a chamber full of people, going in and out: or by being hurried away to view objects, which may appear worthy the attention of the inhabitants of a ſmall town, but can have few charms for thoſe who have viſited the antiquities of Rome, and the grand works of ancient art; and that their kindneſs would have double worth, were it ſimply and cordially adminiſtered, undebaſed by the vain marks of honour, and ignoble cringing and flattery,

as exercised by the insignificant babbling of curiosity! What can a stranger say to people, who vaunt of his merits without ever having seen him before; of the overflowing of the heart at his arrival; and who, with an expression of false modesty, not uncommon to them, compare themselves to insects *?

* The following expressions are frequent. *Voglia compatire colla nostra debolezza—E niente al suo merito, alfatto niente! Ci e niente degno di lei, ma ci e abondanza di cuore.*—"I hope you will excuse our incapacity—We have "nothing worthy of you; absolutely nothing! I possess "nothing worthy of your notice: but I have an over-"flowing heart!" If you go to see a collection of vases, coins, or other curiosities, they offer them with the phrase —*E tutto alla sua disposizione!*—"The whole, Sir, is at your disposal!"—A nobleman, whose handsome wife I had visited, and whom I had the courage to praise, being to depart the next morning, answered my praise in the presence of a dignified ecclesiastic, with *E tutta alla disposizione del Signor Conte!* The man certainly was not serious: but why so degrading an expression? Why so debasing a compliment as—*Sono un piccolo insetto nel mondo!* —"I am but a worm, crawling on the earth!"

LET-

LETTER LXXXII.

Catanzaro, 21ſt May 1792.

IT was on the 17th, half an hour before midnight, that we got under ſail in the harbour of Gallipoli. During our paſſage, the wind was generally favourable; but ſo weak that it was eleven o'clock of the forenoon of the 19th, before we arrived at Cotrone: although the diſtance between the two places is only from ſeventeen to eighteen German miles. We ſoon loſt ſight of the flat ſhores of Gallipoli, and ſaw before us the high mountains of the two Calabrias.

The preſent *Terra d'Otranto* was called by the ancients the *Japygian* peninſula; and, in its moſt proper ſenſe, the eaſt ſide was called Calabria, and the weſt the land of the Salentines. The two provinces, which are now called *Calabria citra* and *Calabria oltra*, were included under the general name *Lucania:* till the ſouth part of this country, which is now called *Calabria oltra*, according to the account of Diodorus Siculus, was ſeparated from the north after the following manner.

"In

" In the firſt year of the 106th Olympiad " [354 years before the birth of Chriſt] the " country of Lucania was overrun by a mul- " titude of vile wretches, moſt of whom were " fugitive ſlaves. At firſt, they ſubſiſted by " robbery: but, after being accuſtomed to " ſleep on the bare earth and to make incur- " ſions, they ſo far inured themſelves to war- " like enterpriſes that they attacked the inha- " bitants of the country, whom they quickly " ſubdued. They firſt took *Terina*, which " they plundered: after that *Harponia*, *Thu-* " *rium*, and many other towns, and founded " a republic under the name of the *Brettii*, or " *Bruttii:* becauſe they had moſt of them " been ſlaves; and this word, in the language " of the country, ſignified runaway ſlaves*."

Before we arrived at Cotrone, we ſaw the little town of Strongoli, built upon a hill on the ſea coaſt. I think, with Swinburne, that it was the *Petelia* founded by Philoctetes. *Belcaſtro*, which is not built on the ſea ſhore, cannot be the place: though it was ſo ſuppoſed by Cluverius. *Petelia* was enumerated among the ſea ports.

Cotrone lies on the north eaſt ſide of the

* Diod. vol. ii. p. 93. ed. Weſſel.

province

province of *Calabria oltra:* or of ſouth Calabria. The origin of this town is bewildered in fable. According to Diodorus, Hercules, on his paſſage through Italy, ſlew by miſtake a man of the name of Croton; and promiſed after him a celebrated town ſhould be named. Others tell us this town was founded by Croton, ſon of the King of Theſſaly and the judge of hell, *Æacus* *. Others again make *Micyllus*, or *Myſcellus*, to be its founder whom the ſatiriſt, Lucian, introduces as converſing with Pythagoras, whoſe ſoul had tranſmigrated into a cock. Croton however was undoubtedly a powerful and flouriſhing city at the time that Pythagoras, under the government of the tyrant Polycrates, left the iſland of Samos, his native country, and, about the year 570 before Chriſt, came to Italy. This great man found the Crotonians degraded, by too much proſperity, into voluptuouſneſs, and led them back to the paths of virtue. He lived to be very old, and reſided in Croton as a venerable ſage when the celebrated war was waged between that city and Sybaris; which was then the moſt powerful in Lucania, or in all Italy. Talys, a

* Diod. vol. i p. 370

powerful

powerful demagogue of Sybaris, exerciſed thoſe political arts that were and are common to ancient and modern demagogues; and endeavoured to ſucceed by making himſelf reſpected among the people, and by exciting an antipathy in them againſt the grandees and the wealthy, that thus they might favour his uſurpations. He perſuaded his fellow citizens to baniſh five hundred of the richeſt perſons of the place, and to divide their property among themſelves. The fugitives ſought and found a refuge in Croton; and, by the advice of Talys, ambaſſadors were ſent thither, requiring thoſe men to be delivered up, or menacing war. The people and the ſenate of Croton heſitated, between the ſhamefully relinquiſhing the ſacred rights of hoſpitality and undertaking a diſaſtrous war. The people inclined, as uſually happens, to that ſide which appeared to them leaſt dangerous; till Pythagoras excited in them a ſenſe of juſtice and ſentiments of heroiſm, and the fugitives were not delivered up.

Three hundred thouſand Sybarites were oppoſed to one hundred thouſand Crotonians, who were led by the famous wreſtler, Milo, a conqueror that had been ſix times crowned

at

at the Olympic games. Adorned with his victor's crown, clothed in a lion's hide, and armed with a club, he led his fellow citizens againſt the effeminate multitude of the Sybarites *.

The Sybarites were put to flight; and moſt of them fell under the ſword of the enraged

* The effeminacy and exceſs of the Sybarites became proverbial, among the ancients. If any man affected a courtly gait, they ſaid he walked like a Sybarite. They were famous for cookery. Like the nobility of France, they did not think it beneath their dignity to ſtudy this art. The moſt notorious among them was one Myndirides; who, when he went to demand the daughter of Cliſthenes, the tyrant of Sicyon, took with him a thouſand fowlers, a thouſand fiſhermen, and a thouſand cooks; but he did not obtain the tyrant's daughter. This Sybarite uſed to ſleep on roſe leaves; and would complain of his reſt being diſturbed, if he happened to be moleſted by the doubling of a leaf. Seeing a labourer once with a hoe, raiſing his arm to hoe the earth, the ſight gave him ſuch a ſenſe of wearineſs that he commanded the man to be gone.

It is related of the Sybarites that they taught their horſes to dance to the ſound of the flute, at their banquets. The tale that the people of Croton profited by this, played the known tune during the battle, and thus ſuddenly made the horſes begin to dance, by which the ranks were confuſed and the riders thrown, is no doubt a pleaſantry, invented by ſome humorous ſatiriſt.

victors, who deſtroyed Sybaris *. This happened in the third year of the 67th Olympiad, 507 years before the birth of Chriſt, and fifty-eight years afterward Sybaris was rebuilt by the Theſſalians. Six years after that, they were again driven away by the Crotonians; and ſought protection from Sparta and Athens. The Athenians liſtened to them, ſent a ſquadron of ten ſhips, and protected them while they built a new city; which was called *Thurion*, from the fountain *Thuria*, and by the Romans *Thurium* †.

At the time that Pyrrhus invaded Italy, Croton was twelve Italian miles in circumference: that is, two common German, or three geographical, miles. After the war of Pyrrhus, the city was ſcarcely half inhabited; and the river *Æſarus*, which had divided Croton, flowed through uninhabited places ‡.

Eight years after the ſecond Punic war,

* The Count, in the true ſpirit of virtue and philoſophy, has declared himſelf an enemy to war. It was in a moment of forgetfulneſs, or he could not have praiſed the vicious, the unphiloſophical, advice of Pythagoras: to which thouſands fell victims; and in conſequence of which a mighty city was razed. T.

† Diod. ‡ Liv. xxiv. c. 3.

when

when Scipio Africanus was again chosen Consul and Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus his colleague, the Romans sent a colony hither *.

During one Olympiad, seven Crotonians obtained the prize for swiftness. It was a proverb that the last of the Crotonians was the first of the Greeks. As healthy as a Crotonian was another proverb: yet is this place, at present, notorious for its bad air!

In early times, Croton was an excellent school for physicians. Democedes was a native of this city. Leaving his severe father, he went to Ægina; where, although he had brought no instruments of his art with him, he surpassed the best physicians: for physicians in those days were also surgeons. In the second year of his residence there, the Æginetæ rewarded him by a salary of a talent. He afterward went to Athens, for higher pay; and from thence to Polycrates, the tyrant of Samos, for the annual stipend of two talents. Herodotus tells us that, in these times, the Crotonians were the people most celebrated for the art of healing.

Polycrates took him with him, when he sailed to visit the Persian governor of Sardis,

* Strabo.

Oroetes; by whom Polycrates was treacherouſly put to death.

When Darius, the ſon of Hyſtaſpes, King of the Perſians, had put Oroetes to death, he afterward ſprained his foot as he alighted from his horſe, after hunting. The Egyptian phyſicians, by whom he was attended, for the Egyptians in ancient times were celebrated for their medical ſkill, gave him pain without relief. The King had ſeven ſleepleſs nights; and on the eighth day Democedes was recommended to him, who appeared before the King in the mean habit of a ſlave, and loaded with chains. Democedes long perſiſted that he was unacquainted with the medical art; for he feared that, if known, he ſhould not be ſuffered to return to Greece. Being however threatened ſeverely by Darius, and, after the royal manner of all ages, menaced with the torture, he acknowledged that he had been acquainted with a phyſician and had obtained ſome ſkill in the ſcience. Darius put himſelf under Democedes; who ſhortly reſtored the King, by the means of ſtrong fomentations. On this, he was preſented with two pair of golden fetters. "What," ſaid Democedes to the monarch, "will you double my evils for having

" having reſtored you to health?" The good-humoured King was ſo pleaſed with this ſally that he ſent Democedes to his women, by whom he was richly rewarded, and would have hanged the Egyptian phyſicians had not Democedes entreated for their pardon.

Soon afterward Atoſſa, the wife of Darius and the daughter of Cyrus the Great, ſent for Democedes; for ſhe had long concealed an abſceſs in her breaſt. The diſeaſe by this time was become dangerous. He promiſed a cure, provided ſhe would make an oath to ſerve him in return.

He kept his word, and, inſtructed by him, Atoſſa adviſed her huſband to make war upon the Greeks, that he might gain renown in his youth, and bring into captivity the women of Ægina, Attica, and Corinth. " Thou haſt a " man," ſaid ſhe, " whoſe knowledge of the " country will do thee great ſervice: it is " Democedes, who cured thy foot."

The converſation of Atoſſa produced its effect on Darius, and he ſent Democedes, with fifteen of the principal perſons of Perſia, to *Phœnice*. Here they armed two galleys, viſited many of the ſea ports of Greece, and landed at laſt at Tarentum. Ariſtophilides,

who governed Tarentum and was a native of Croton, impriſoned the Perſians, as ſpies; and Democedes, who had formed this plan only to return to his own country, went to Croton.

When he was there, Ariſtophilides ſet the Perſians at liberty, and reſtored them all their effects. They ſailed to Croton, purſued Democedes, and found him in the public place. Some of the citizens, fearful of the power of the GREAT KING, would have delivered him up to the Perſians: but others fell upon and beat them, being warned by the ſufferers in vain.

When they were at laſt allowed to depart, Democedes accoſted them and bade them inform the King that he had married the daughter of the wreſtler, Milo, whoſe fame was not unknown to Perſia *.

Philolaus, a citizen of Croton, the ſcholar of the great Archytas of Tarentum, firſt taught that the ſun ſtood ſtill, and that the earth moved round it in an ellipſis.

Theocritus lays the ſcene of his fourth idyl in this country.

This city, one of the moſt powerful of Magna Grecia in the time of its proſperity, is

* Herod. lib. iii.

now

now ſunk to a wretched little town, which contains about five thouſand ſouls. Its name, *Cotrone*, is an alteration of its ancient name; after the manner in which the Neapolitans, and the people of Sicily, are accuſtomed to arrange their letters. Thus the common people call the iſland of Capri *Crapi:* Capra, a goat, *crapa.* Inſtead of *paâule*, a marſh, they ſay *palude:* and the *Grotta Minarda*, a place in Puglia, they call *Grotta Miranda.* They have derived this manner of arranging their letters from their Greek anceſtors.

Cotrone is ſupported by commerce; chiefly of grain, and cheeſe: though it likewiſe trades in oil, and ſilk.

On our arrival, a houſe was prepared for us, which is deſtined for an engineer; under whoſe ſuperintendance the haven is to be improved, and which it is hoped will render the air more healthy. Scarcely had we taken poſſeſſion of this houſe before three different gentlemen of the town came, and entreated us to go with them. We accepted the invitation of Don Antonio Marzano; whoſe reception was warm and friendly. Neither he nor his friends, who, according to the cuſtom of the country, aſſembled to viſit the ſtrangers,

were ſo exceſſively polite as the people of Puglia: whoſe civilities I ſometimes did not know how to interpret.

The good people, who had haſtily prepared the empty houſe of the engineer for our reception, refuſed to accept any compenſation for their trouble.

Don Antonio gave us a refreſhment of ice; and then became our guide through the city, where we beheld the formerly famous river of *Æſarus*, which is now called *Eſaro*. The ancients derived its name from *Æſarus*, a huntſman, who fell into the river as he was purſuing a hind.

The inhabitants ſay that it was formerly navigable; but that the greateſt part of its waters have found a ſubterranean paſſage, by which the ſtream has in part been dried up. I do not inſiſt upon the truth of this opinion: for, though an earthquake might have eaſily produced ſuch a change, if I do not miſtake, Pliny has remarked that this city never was viſited with earthquakes. Leſs ſtreams than this have exerciſed the vanity and patriotic prejudices of the Greeks; and have been deſcribed by them as mighty rivers.

The *Eſaro*, at certain times, riſes very high; and

and no longer ago than laſt Auguſt, ſwept away a lofty ſtone bridge, erected on arches, which is now rebuilding. It likewiſe laid waſte the gardens.

According to the probable opinion of Cluverius, the *Stomalimnon*, where the herdſman of Theocritus paſtured his cattle, is at the mouth of this river. The poet praiſes the fertility of the paſturage; and I have ſeldom ſeen a finer growth of graſs. I found canary ſeed, which we ſometimes rear in our gardens as food for the canary bird, growing wild. The aromatic odour of the plants and ſhrubs fills the air. The high red trefoil, which is reared in fields by the inhabitants of *Terra di Lavoro*, here grows wild in abundance. But it is not ſo full in the ear as there; though it has larger flowers, and ſpreads over the ground like our yellow *lotus:* from which it is only diſtinguiſhable by its colour, and ſuperior ſize. The Italians call both this that grows wild, and that which is cultivated, *prato;* and prefer it to all other fodder, eſpecially for horſes. I will endeavour to procure ſeed of this valuable plant; for it is certainly worth making an experiment, to know if it will thrive in our ſoil.

The licorice root grows wild, and is made a branch of commerce, in this country.

The waters, left by the overflowing of the river and the decaying ſtate of the haven, have doubtleſs occaſioned the bad air of the place; which has been increaſed by the narrowneſs of the ſtreets, and the want of cleanlineſs in the inhabitants.

Near the town, we ſaw a large bean field, planted as it were in defiance of Pythagoras.

Charles the Fifth ſurrounded Cotrone with a ſtrong wall: but this town cannot ſtand a ſiege, for want of water. The fountain which ſupplies it riſes without the walls; and the mills ſtand at a certain diſtance.

Six Italian miles ſouth of the city, on the north ſide of the promontory of *Lacinium*, the temple of the *Lacinian Juno* ſtood; which, Livy tells us, was as celebrated as Croton itſelf. It was revered by all the neighbouring people. A lofty grove, ſurrounded by pines, contained the herds that were conſecrated to the goddeſs; and they paſtured there without a keeper. Not many years ſince, there were large remains of this temple; and the Italians call the promontory after the pillars of this temple *Capo delle*

delle Colonne. The grove ſtill flouriſhes: but the ſtones have been taken to repair the haven; from which depredation not even the ſuppoſition that Pythagoras had taught there could protect them. The grove too is cut, for the burning of bricks. Riedeſel, a learned antiquarian, imagined he diſcovered a part of the ancient temple, in the ruins which were called *Scuola di Pitagora:* or, the ſchool of Pythagoras. There is only one pillar now ſtanding, which is ſo large that we could plainly ſee it from Cotrone.

As we were yeſterday intending to leave the place, I was invited with great kindneſs and cordiality, by Don Antonio, to ſtand godfather for the child of which his young wife is pregnant.

Almoſt the whole country between Cotrone and Catanzaro, a tract of forty Italian miles, conſiſts of hilly paſtures. The large growth of the thiſtle and the tilled lands, on which we ſaw excellent wheat, denote the fertility of the ſoil: yet theſe mild regions maintain few inhabitants. Neglect, the oppreſſions of government, and the high rents which the nobles exact from the peaſantry, prevent many from marriage; that pureſt ſpring of domeſtic felicity,

felicity, that beſt ſupport of the power of a nation. For this reaſon the country ſwarms with beaſts of prey. Foxes are innumerable: and Don Antonio, who like Nimrod is a mighty hunter, vaunts of having killed three hundred foxes, and many wolves, with his own hand. The wolves are bold enough to ſeize on ſingle cows, and mares, at paſture: but if a cow, or mare, perceive the wolf, it utters a well-known cry, on which the whole herd comes in aid.

This beautiful province is likewiſe injured by the want of roads; for it does not poſſeſs one high road that is kept in repair. Nor is *Calabria citra* better provided. The high road from Naples proceeds no farther than the *Lago Nero*, in the province of *Baſilicata*. It is indeed to be continued to Reggio: but is one high road ſufficient for theſe noble provinces? The foot roads are only paſſable in ſummer; and then are wretched. The overflowing ſtreams leave large cracks in the earth; which we at firſt ſuppoſed to be the conſequences of the earthquake of 1783, by which this country was deſolated. We rode over the beds of waters that were now partly dry, and partly humid; the breadth of which, with

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the ſhagged and demoliſhed ſhores and the deep gaping crevices, prove how high they riſe at the end of ſummer, and in winter. An Italian gentleman ſaid to me, "A town ſituated at a diſtance might ſuffer dearth, after a bad harveſt, becauſe the people of our country have no means of tranſporting their ſuperfluity."

The roads are neither ſo dangerous as they are generally ſaid to be in Naples, where the caution given to travellers is very terrifying, nor yet ſo ſecure as ſome travellers have affirmed. We have travelled through all Puglia, contrary to the cuſtom of travellers, without an armed eſcort; and have ſuffered no attack from robbers. However, we met priſoners, who had been taken up for acts of outrage lately committed. The priſons indeed are full. There are now in this town more than three hundred priſoners, and moſt of them robbers: but it frequently happens that they lie years before they are brought to trial. A ſingle officer, called the *Scrivano*, undertakes the proſecution of all malefactors; and his favour is frequently to be bought. A ſum of money will induce him to varniſh over the

the greateſt crimes as trifles; and thus procure the liberty of the criminals: while others, for inſignificant offences, are kept many years in fetters, and, as guilty perſons, conſigned to the intercourſe of guilt.

Several of the *Scrivani* have been ſent to the galleys by the regent of Naples; who is of the family of the Medici, and Preſident of the Court of Juſtice. He labours with zeal and courage againſt theſe pernicious abuſes; and Naples itſelf may thank him for its ſafety: but he combats with a hydra, which rears its innumerable heads through the whole country; and, while they bend beneath his club, are not exterminated.

A prince, by whom as travellers we were entertained at Cotrone, yeſterday ſupplied us with an eſcort of four armed horſemen; whom we diſmiſſed after we had travelled half the way.

The high nobility had formerly the right of exacting a heavy tax upon travellers; for which if required it was their duty to furniſh an armed eſcort: but the King has lately demanded to examine the proofs on which they exact theſe tolls, and they are now aboliſhed.

Thoſe

Thoſe *Baroni* *, however, who could produce ſufficient documents received an indemnification; and they are now all releaſed from the neceſſity of furniſhing an eſcort, which is provided by the King. Formerly the men employed by the nobility for this ſervice received three or four times the pay of a ſoldier.

Our guide took us to a houſe on the road, which we ſuppoſed to have been an inn; but, as ſoon as we had diſmounted, the maſter came out with a friendly welcome. He is a gentleman of Catanzaro, who yearly reſides at his country ſeat in the month of May, and during a part of June. It is at ſome diſtance from the ſea; and the badneſs of the air obliges him annually to quit it ſo early. This bad air is entirely occaſioned by the want of cultivation: the unplowed earth, which is only uſed as paſture, gapes beneath the parching ſun; and injurious vapours riſe from the crevices. *Magna Grecia* was once a moſt populous country; aſtoniſhingly populous; and no leſs healthful: but it was when agriculture flouriſhed.

* The title of *Barone* ſignifies, in both kingdoms, a landholder of the high nobility: whether prince, duke, marquis, or count.

Our wretched horſes, and ſtill worſe ſumpter mules, obliged us to travel a part of our *way* (I ſhould have miſuſed the word had I called it *road*) by night. We frequently traverſed uneven ground, came to ſteep declivities, and paſſed along ſmall paths, where the earth was broken up and gaping, and ſometimes obliged to deſcend hills, down which it was impoſſible to go ſafely on foot without the utmoſt care. Yet we were only a league diſtant from the principal city of the province! Diſpleaſed as we were with our guides we diſmiſſed them at Catanzaro, in certain expectation of being better ſupplied with horſes for ourſelves and our luggage: but they are all gone to a neighbouring market, and here we muſt for the preſent remain; fortunate in having found an inn which, in this country, is of a very capital kind, though in Germany it would only be conſidered as an alehouſe.

Catanzaro is built on a tolerably high ſummit, among mountains; and the proſpect from the city to theſe green ſhady heights is pleaſant. The dreadful earthquake of 1783 extended to this place; and the inhabitants whoſe houſes were thrown down, as well

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as thoſe who wiſhed to guard againſt future ſhocks, built ſmaller houſes on a woody height near the city. Theſe houſes, which the Italians call barracks, are of brick and wood; and generally have only one ſtory: though moſt of the houſes in Italy are lofty, and built of hewn ſtone. Theſe little habitations, being light and capable of yielding to the ſhock, are much leſs dangerous. They are pleaſantly ſituated, among gardens; and are very different from the city itſelf, the houſes of which are high, and the ſtreets narrow, and dirty.

Catanzaro may contain about twelve thouſand inhabitants. It is the reſidence of the preſident of the province; and is likewiſe the ſeat of the biſhop.

The principal people have country houſes on the ſea ſide, at the diſtance of a German mile from the city; where they reſide during May and a part of June, till they are driven away by the unhealthy air. Catanzaro is ſurrounded with hills; and to the neareſt valley there is a broad paved road, from which the owners of the country houſes proceed along the ſandy bed of a river, which is dried up in ſummer, and which ſerves them as a high road.

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The chief ſupport of the city conſiſts in the manufacture of ſilks of various kinds.

LETTER LXXXIII.

Oppido, 24th May 1792.

WE left Catanzaro early on the morning of the 22d, juſt as the beams of day were breaking upon the tops of the ſurrounding mountains. We rode along ſmall foot paths, and paſſed the hills that were fragrant with the morning dew, and the flowery paſtures, the beautiful herbage of which rendered them delightful. The herds were grazing on the fruitful lands below us; and here and there, toward the ſea, we perceived a ſhady grove.

The cattle of this province are very fine, ſtrong, and numerous. The horſes are nimble, fiery, and well proportioned. Thoſe on which we were mounted actively climbed up the ſteep foot path.

Having aſcended the hill, we came to a large

large foreſt of oaks; of which trees there were ſeveral kinds that were unknown to us. The leaves of ſome of them were of a clear green, almoſt pointed in the middle, and ſeemed to load the branches. Between the oaks large cork trees grew; while the wild vine twined round the higheſt tops of theſe trees, and, in the rankneſs of their growth, dropped again quite to the ground, or intermingled with the ſprouts of the honey-ſuckles. Here too the tall myrtle ſpread out its branches, like our holly oak.

We had ſuddenly a view of the ſea, and of a mountain that towered amid the billows. At firſt, we imagined that it was Mount Ætna, and that we diſcovered its crater in the depth between its forked ſummits: but, on better information, we found it to be the volcanic mountain of the iſland of Stromboli. We likewiſe had a view of Lipari, and of another of the Lipari iſlands.

The mulberry trees are large, and ſpreading; and, among the wild flowers, I ſaw the odoriferous pea flower, *lathyrus*, of our gardens; both the dark kind and the more odoriferous clear red. Here too was the ſmall blue iris: the large grows wild near Naples,

and the yellow kind is very common in the iſland of Niſida.

At *Fondaco del Fico*, which Swinburne ſuppoſed to be the *Fundus Sicæ*, from which during his baniſhment Cicero wrote ſome of his letters to Atticus, we paſſed the mid day under a large poplar; beſide a ſpring, which forms a rivulet, that ran murmuring under alder trees. This beautiful tree is ſeldom ſeen in Italy.

In the afternoon, we ſaw five of the Lipari iſlands, advancing out of the clear blue flood like individual mountains; and on the ſide next us, the curving bay of *Santa Eufemia*, encloſed by ridges of hills riſing one behind the other.

We arrived at *Monteleone* as the ſun went down. This town gives its name to one of the moſt powerful vaſſals of the two kingdoms; and, if I do not miſtake, to the moſt powerful of them all. The Duke of Monteleone it is ſaid, by the aboliſhing of the tolls which were exacted by the *Baroni*, will loſe a yearly revenue of fifteen thouſand ducats: equal to fifteen thouſand rix-dollars.

This town was founded by the Greeks of Locri; by whom it was called *Hippo*, or *Hipponium*.

ponium. From them it was taken by the *Brutii*; and from the *Brutii* by the Romans, who ſent a colony hither and named it *Vibona Valentia.*

This charming country was the ſeat of love, in the fables of the Greeks: and here Proſerpine, as a virgin nymph, frequently came from Sicily, to gather the flowers of *Hipponium.* The town is ſituated on a gentle declivity of the ſea ſhore, on which Agathocles once built a pier. The ſurrounding country is ſhady, fertile, and hilly. It might well be ſaid that, when Proſerpine was the bride of Pluto, and had received Sicily from Jupiter as a marriage gift, ſhe conſigned the ſhores to her mother Ceres; for they every where abound in grain.

The town was almoſt deſtroyed by the earthquake of 1783; and it now chiefly conſiſts of ſhops, built of wood, and houſes, built of wood, brick, and mortar. Theſe kind of barracks, as they are called by the Italians, are frequently more expenſive than ſtone houſes; in a country where wood is ſcarce, and ſtone abundant.

We yeſterday left this ill built charmingly

ſituated place; round which we ſaw ſmall groves, paſtures, and rich corn fields.

We paſſed through *Mileto;* a ſmall town that was built by the *Mileſians*, after Darius, the ſon of Hyſtaſpes, had deſtroyed their city. This little place was likewiſe deſtroyed by the earthquake of 1783, and conſiſts at preſent of low barracks.

The woody Apennines now roſe on our left, the ſea was in our front, and beyond it the mountains of Sicily; appearing, as it were, to form one chain with the Apennines, while, at the back of the Sicilian hills, the naked head and interſected back of Ætna roſe. Its clouds of ſmoke ſunk downward; and, ſtretching out, darkened the horizon.

We did not loſe ſight of this vaſt mountain, as we paſſed through the fertile valley of Roſſarno; the woody hills of which concealed the mountains of Sicily on our right, and the Apennines on our left.

Roſſarno was called, by the Greeks, *Medama;* and this little town was likewiſe in part ruined by the earthquake. It is charmingly ſituated, between a broad river and a plentiful ſpring.

Large

Large plantations of olive trees are met with between Roſſarno and Oppido; and the olive tree has a much finer appearance in this province than in other parts of Italy. Nor is it here grafted, but ſuffered to grow in all its native beauty. Thoſe that are grafted have the appearance of the mutilated village willow; but thoſe that are left unmoleſted look like the tall willow with ſpreading branches.

The olive tree will not only bear without grafting here, but it is affirmed that, though it only produces once in two years, its fruit is more abundant, and finer, than that of the grafted annual olive. I certainly never ſaw olive trees ſo full of bloom as theſe; and the flowers are much larger than thoſe uſually ſeen on other olive trees.

Theſe ungrafted olives muſt not be confounded with the wild olive which is the ſpontaneous production of nature, in theſe provinces.

The preſent Oppido is built on a kind of broad terrace of the woody Apennines, three Italian miles diſtant from the former Oppido; which, on the fifth of February 1783, was entirely deſtroyed by the earthquake: or ra-

ther engulphed, by what may be called a whirlpool of the opening earth, for it was the centre of this terrible calamity.

A canon, who had been an eye witneſs of this horrible event, told me that the motion of the earth was like that of the billows of the ſea.

We were entertained in a friendly manner, yeſterday evening, by the Biſhop; who entered upon his office but a few weeks ſince. The reſidence of the Biſhop is not yet rebuilt, and he lives in a barrack; with which he has been furniſhed by one of the town's people.

This morning, we rode among the mountains by paths that were almoſt impaſſable, and over hills that formerly were valleys, and valleys that formerly were hills. When an earthquake happens to take but one direction, the mountains may ſhake from their roots to their very ſummits, yet ſuffer but little change; and, in ſome places, ſcarcely any: the earth ſeeming to repoſe itſelf, like the ſea after a ſtorm: but, if the ſhocks encounter each other in contrary direction, they form a conflicting motion, which dams up rivers and removes mountains. The earthquake was the more dreadful here becauſe the mountains, con-

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ſiſting of adheſive clay, reſiſted the ſubterranean ſtrife of contradictory motion. We ſaw mountains rent from top to bottom; the fallen half of which had filled up former valleys, and formed others in their ſtead. Beds of earth, in many places, were torn away with their whole plantations. Trees, with their roots half bare, ſtand on the brink of a precipice; while their fellow trees, tranſported to a diſtance, are now growing on the banks of other ſprings, by which they are watered. A man, a woman, and a mule, were, by one electrical ſhock, projected, with the ground on which they ſtood, acroſs a river without injury. A man, that was plucking lemons upon a tree in the little town of Seminara, was carried, with the tree and the earth in which it grew, and ſtill grows, and thrown to a great diſtance. Many, borne away by the billows of earth, as by the billows of ocean, were ſwallowed up and thrown back from the gaping gulph without injury. Rivers were impriſoned in their courſe, and their dammed up ſtreams were ſuddenly formed into lakes; which, now divided from their native ſtreams, ſend forth injurious exhalations from their ſtagnant waters.

Several of theſe lakes I ſaw; others are dried up, and ſome at the expence of Government. An outlet for one has been cut through the rocks. This earthquake gave birth to law ſuits of a new kind, between the proprietors of the overſhooting and the poſſeſſors of the overſhot earth, to know which of them had planted a tree, and on whoſe ſoil it afterward ſtood. Many trees were thrown between others; and who were the proprietors of them was an uncertainty. I ſaw a quantity of olive trees that were torn, with the earth where they grew, from the ranks in which they were planted, were preſſed together by the whirling motion, and now form one great clump.

Oppido that was, which Cluverius ſuppoſed to be the ancient *Mamertum*, and Italian antiquaries the ancient *Metaurum* *, is now changed into a heap of ſtones. Large ranges

* They ground this opinion on the river near Oppido being ſtill called *Metauro*. But might not *Metaurum* have been built, as Cluverius ſuppoſes, at the mouth of the river *Metaurus?* Let me remark, this river muſt not be confounded with the great *Metaurus*, now called *Metaro*, that was famous for the battle in which the Carthaginians were defeated, and their leader Haſdrubal, the brother of Hannibal, ſlain.

of

of wall, ſeized as it were and dragged away by the frantic earth, when the earth ceaſed its motion, did not fall flat, but were placed with the end upward: as if they had taken root, or were ſupported by a giant hand.

Penetrated by the aſpect, we ſtood with our guide, a youth of twenty, contemplating theſe ruins. We in aſtoniſhment and compaſſion, and he bitterly recollecting that the houſe of his father was a part of the wreck, that he and his mother had been five hours covered by the rubbiſh, and that his brother and ſiſter lay buried beneath it.

As we came to Oppido, we had already been ſhewn, in one place, ſtones that had cruſhed men; and in another hills covered with the flouriſhing vine under which whole communities were entombed.

The former town contained three thouſand inhabitants; the preſent barracks only five hundred. About twelve hundred periſhed on the deſolating day. Some were burned alive, overtaken by the flames that ſpread through the tumbling houſes. The monks of a monaſtery became the prey of theſe flames. A woman, who now lives in Meſſina, remained eleven days under the ruins of her own

houſe. Her child was with her; and they both fed on cheſnuts, which the mother, not improvidentially, had put in her pocket. She gave the child her own excremental water to drink: but, as ſhe had no ſupply of liquid for herſelf, even this wretched aid ſoon failed; and the child died, on the fifth day.

Numbers afterward died, partly from the miſeries and want to which they were ſubjected, and partly from the diſeaſes which the ſtagnant water, the newly turned up earth, and the putrid bodies of man and beaſt, occaſioned.

So remarkable were the effects of this earthquake on the human organs that, in the two following years, the women either did not conceive, were prematurely delivered, or brought forth dead children; and of thoſe that were born alive many immediately expired.

When the firſt account of this dreadful event reached Naples, the King was deſirous of viſiting the diſtracted province; and being prevented, he ſent the people money. The Queen, whoſe benevolence is always active, deprived herſelf of her jewels; and people of all ranks were at firſt contributors. The ſanguine

guine Neapolitans are eaſily moved: but their emotion quickly dies away.

Some communities, that had ſuffered by the earthquake, generouſly refuſed the aſſiſtance offered them; that it might be given to others, whoſe ſufferings were more ſevere.

The whole province beſtowed its bleſſings on Don Franceſco de la Vega, the ſuperintendant of the Muſeum at Portici, whom the King ſent with money and full powers into Calabria. He poſſeſſed the art of doing much with a little; and his conduct, as wiſe as it was humane, inſpired the terrified inhabitants with new courage.

The loſs of the province by death, including thoſe that were ſwallowed up, buried under the ruins, or killed by diſeaſe, has been eſtimated by ſeveral at two-and-thirty thouſand ſouls. No town ſuffered ſo much, according to its population, as Oppido. The fruitful fields lie uncultivated; and the ſtrong ſoil generates luxuriant plants, which humectate the air.

The inhabitants complain that the King has not provided new houſes for all the new cultivators; but I ſuſpect that the evil muſt be conſtitutional, and rooted in the people.

Where

Where fruitful lands may be had for ſmall rents, as in this country, there, unleſs peculiar obſtacles are to be overcome, cultivators will not be wanting, who will provide habitations for themſelves. This is the caſe in our country; where, though the climate be rude, the houſes are larger and more expenſive; and where the countryman tills a ſoil by the ſweat of his brow, which is not productive the whole year, nor does it encumber him with its ſuperfluity as in Calabria.

This province, one of the moſt favoured in Europe, and with which, Sicily and the ſhores of the bay of Naples excepted, no other perhaps can be compared, this province, where heaven, earth, and ſea united ſmile, was already depopulated before the depopulation of the earthquake. Its few inhabitants were previouſly poor. The whole ſyſtem of the country is ſtrikingly bad. The countryman is obliged to pay the King heavy taxes for the oil of his preſs, and the raw ſilk which his worms produce: though he has already paid his landlord for the ground on which the olive and the mulberry tree grew. The merchant cannot afford to give him much for his oil, becauſe he is obliged to pay a tax which is equally

equally heavy and unjuſt for leave to export it. The argument that the foreign merchant pays this tax is abſurd. Is it not evident that the foreigner will pay the cultivator the leſs the more he is obliged to pay the King? Heavy taxes are likewiſe paid for wrought ſilk, and for ſilk ſtuffs. Beſide, it is ſurely evil ſufficient that the natives ſhould be obliged to yield the carrying trade to foreigners, from the want of protection againſt the Barbary corſairs.

If the peaſant be the vaſſal of a *Barone*, he is ſubject to tolls at the mill and at the oil preſs: beſide which he is obliged to pay a tax in kind, for the produce of the ſoil. To this we muſt add that the roads, unrepaired, daily become worſe; and whole communities are hemmed in and cut off from intercourſe, with town or country. The ſmall circulation of money is ſtill farther limited by the ſudden abolition of monaſteries.

Thus do the inhabitants ſuffer dearth in paradiſe. Thus depopulation increaſes; in a country where marriages are uncommonly fruitful, but where the dread of increaſing wretchedneſs deters the people from marriage. And truly it requires a paradiſe, ſuch as Calabria,

labria, to invite any inhabitants where ſuch numerous afflictions oppreſs a people who are habitually cheerful; where the ox-driver notwithſtanding plays on his bagpipe, and where the jocund youth, with ſongs, and ſprings, and bounds, leads his herd of goats among the mountains.

LETTER LXXXIV.

Reggio, 27th May 1792.

THOUGH the roads were difficult and bad, ſtill we had a pleaſant ride the day before yeſterday, on the 25th, from Oppido to *Scylla*. The paths, which lead up and down the mountains and through the foreſts, are narrow and frequently ſteep; and they were rendered very ſlippery by a heavy fall of rain. We rode through foreſts of oak, the trees of which even in Germany would be called large, and fine. After the rain, the atmoſphere became clear and the earth aromatic. The ſea was ſeen from the heights, with the Italian and

and Sicilian coaſts, the Lipari iſlands, and the Faro, or ſtraits, between Italy and Sicily; which, thus viewed, looked like a bay.

We rode along the zig-zag way, between ſteep ſhores with hanging ſhrubs, among which were the vine, and the *cactus opuntia*. This remarkable evergreen plant, with its broad leaves forming ample baſkets, is now in bloom; and bears beautiful flowers, of a high yellow colour.

Deſcending to the ſea ſhore, we reſted ſome hours at the little town of Bagnara; whoſe charming ſituation is increaſed by the high waterfalls, that embelliſh the town on each ſide.

The preſent Bagnara is built of barracks, above which are the ruins of the former town, among the rocks; which, in 1783, was nearly deſtroyed by the earthquake.

We continued our journey along the coaſt, ſometimes on the ſandy ſtrand, and at others among ſmall rocky paths up the ſteep ſides of the mountains, till we came to *Sciglio:* or *Scylla.*

The rock immortalized by Homer, on which the caſtle of the Prince of Scylla is built,

built, gave the town its name. It lies in part immediately on the ſhore; but the greater part is above, among the rocks. The ſtreets are narrow; and nine different rows of houſes are ſeen ſtanding immediately one above the other. Over the higheſt of theſe ſtraight rows, in ſomething of an oblique direction, there are ſtill ſix or ſeven other rows.

A waterfall ruſhes from the rocks; and this Cluverius ſuppoſes to be the *Cratais* of Homer: the fabulous mother of Scylla.

In the earthquake of 1783, ſome churches were thrown down, and others were damaged. The houſes were moſt of them ſpared: yet this little town ſuffered a great loſs of inhabitants; and, Oppido excepted, the greateſt.

Terrified by the ſhocks, moſt of the inhabitants fled to the ſea ſhore. The Prince of Scylla alſo left his high caſtle, and hoped, not improbably, to find greater ſafety on the ſtrand: but ſuddenly a whole mountain of the ſouth ſhore was torn up, and caſt into the ſea. The waves, by this prodigious force, being driven from the land, returned with redoubled violence, and carried away with them fourteen hundred and fifty men. Some ſought to eſcape

in

in the boats that were on the ſtrand; but both boats and men were borne away, and neither body nor plank was ever more ſeen.

It was thus that the Prince of Scylla periſhed; one fiſherboy only having eſcaped from his boat. This boy muſt have been carried away by a high wave; for he was found ſtunned on a rock, at a conſiderable diſtance from Scylla, which rock and Scylla form together a ſmall bay.

So great was the power of the waves that they ſprung the ſtone vaulting of a houſe, and roſe to ſuch a height that a woman was thrown through a window into the third ſtory of this houſe. Another woman was left hanging by her hair to a high mulberry tree, and was ſaved. A whole company preſerved their lives in a boat that was moored to the ſhore, and the cable of which was ſufficiently long to reach the full height of the wave.

The women of Oppido, after the earthquake, were moſt of them barren for two years; and, when they afterward brought forth children, the greateſt number of them died. In Scylla, a very oppoſite effect was produced by this dreadful viſitation of nature. Barren women, and thoſe who had left

off child-bearing, again, became fruitful. Some of the former had married and had remained childleſs till they were nearer the age of fifty than of forty.

The opinion of thoſe who think that earthquakes may be aſcribed to electrical cauſes appears to me very rational: but, as I am no experimental philoſopher, my authority in favour of their reaſons ought to have little weight. Some of them are founded on the nature of the ſoil, where the ſhocks took place; and ſome of the learned aſſert that thoſe mountains which contained iron were ſpared: but that the places lying between ſuch mountains were dreadfully viſited. And are not ſimilar effects produced in little by lightning? Does not it paſs over iron cramps, in the walls, or chimnies, without injuring them; while it rends the intervening walls themſelves? Does not this account for the whirling motion of the earth, and for the meeting of the ſhocks in different directions, if you admit that interrupted veins of iron in the mountains may produce ſuch effects?

How ſhall we account for the effects produced upon the female organs without the aid of electricity? Shall we ſay that the

mere

mere effect of fear made the women of Oppido barren two years, after finding them in a healthy ſtate? Are there no terrors of another kind? Are not our women likewiſe ſubject to terror; and are the terrified more barren than the courageous? Was it terror which rendered the barren women of Scylla fruitful? It is known that the power of electricity is great over the animal organs; although theſe facts have not been long eſtabliſhed. Let it be granted that a certain quantity of this power is beneficial to the female organs, and we ſhall no longer be aſtoniſhed that an exceſs of this power ſhould be injurious; and the ſhocks at Oppido were much more violent than at Scylla.

I have ſince been informed that the barren women of Meſſina, as well as ſome who had left off child-bearing, became fruitful after the earthquake. I would avoid credulity; but I would equally avoid an oppoſite exceſs. "Whoever doubts the truth of theſe facts "ſtands in contradiction, probably in the "ſupport of a ſyſtem, to the teſtimony of three "towns *."

The

* The appearances, or facts, as the author calls them, may all be real: yet the deductions unfounded. Electri-

The rock of Homer has a fantaſtic and terrifying form. We took boat and went to it as ſoon as we arrived. Let us hear the deſcription of the great poet, and wonder with what penetration he obſerved, and how much there was of reality in his daring imagery.

Circe warned Ulyſſes againſt the erratic or wandering rocks : πλαγκτας πέτρας. Immediately in the front of the rock of Scylla, craggy cliffs advance out of the ſea ; againſt which the foaming waves, more or leſs, continually daſh. The eye is deceived, and might be induced to aſcribe the motion of the ſea to the cliffs. A ſimilar accident happens in the Baltic; where people, as I have often experienced, miſtake the ſtones which the ſea now waſhes and now leaves bare for ſwimming ſea dogs.

Homer may have made the voyage on

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city ſeems to be made a kind of occult cauſe; to which its adherents would refer all the phenomena that they cannot explain. Philoſophy is anxious to enquire into and to record facts: but it is no leſs anxious to avoid ſtating conjecture as fact. A certain quantity of fear, and a certain exceſs of fear, will ſquare as accurately with the reaſoning of the hypothetic theoriſt, on fear, as a certain quantity and exceſs of electricity will with that of the hypothetic theoriſt on electricity. T.

board

board a Phœnician or Grecian veſſel; or rather no doubt a Phœnician; and ſtill it is probable that the mariners of his age were ignorant enough of theſe coaſts to actually imagine that the cliffs floated.

Pliny himſelf, that great naturaliſt, believed that the rocky iſlands of the *Lago di Balſena* floated. Homer, on this occaſion, called the ſea Amphitrite, with a dark blue countenance. The water here is very deep; and I never before, on an evening, ſaw a clear ſky of ſo dark a blue.

The following is the poet's deſcription of Scylla:

'Οι δε δυω σκοπελοι, ὁ μεν ὀυρανον ἐυρυν ἱκανει
'Οξειῃ κορυφῃ, νεφελη δε μιν ἀμφιβεβηκε
Κυανεη· το μεν ὀυποτ' ἐρωει, ὀυδε ποτ' ἀιθρη
Κεινου ἐχει κορυφην, ὀυτ' ἐν θερει, ὀυτ' εν ὀπωρῃ·
'Ουδε κεν ἀμβαιη βροτος ἀνηρ, ὀυ καταβαιη,
'Ουδ' ἐι ὀι χειρες γε ἐεικοσι και ποδες ἦεν
Πετρη γαρ λις ἐστι, περιξεστῃ ἐικυῖα.
Μεσσῳ δ' ἐν σκοπελῳ ἐστι σπεος ἠεροειδες
Προς ζοφον, ἐις ἐρεβος τετραμμενον, ἠπερ ἀν υμεις
Νηα παρα γλαφυρην ἰθυνετε, φαιδιμ' 'Οδυσσεῦ.
'Ουδε κεν ἐκ νηος γλαφυρης αιζηϊος ἀνηρ
Τοξῳ ὀϊστευσας κοιλον σπεος εισαφικοιτο.
'Ενθα δ' ενι Σκυλλη ναιει, δεινον λελακυῖα·
Της ἠτοι φωνη μεν ὀση σκυλακος νεογιλης
Γινεται, ἀυτη δ' ἀυτε πελωρ κακος, ὀυδε κε τις μιν
Γηθησειεν ἰδων, ὀυδ' ἐι θεος ἀντιασειεν.

Τῆς ἤτοι ποδες εἰσι δυωδεκα, παντες ἀωροι·
Ἐξ δε τε οἱ δειραι περιμηκεες· ἐν δε ἑκαστῃ
Σμερδαλεη κεφαλη, ἐν δε τριστοιχοι ὀδοντες,
Πυκνοι και θαμεες, πλεῖοι μελανος θανατοιο.
Μεσση μεν τε κατα σπειους κοιλοιο δεδυκεν·
Ἐξω δ' ἐξισχει κεφαλας δεινοῖο βερεθρου·
Αὐτοῦ δ' ἰχθυαα σκοπελον περιμαιμωωσα,
Δελφινας τε, κυνας τε, και εἰποθι μειζον ἑλῃσι
Κητος, ἀ μυρια βοσκει αγασονος Ἀμφιτριτη.

HOMER, Odyſſ. xii. 73–97.

High in the air the rock its ſummit ſhrouds
In brooding tempeſts, and in rolling clouds;
Loud ſtreams around and miſts eternal riſe,
Beat its bleak brow and intercept the ſkies.
When all the broad expanſion, bright with day,
Glows with th' autumnal or the ſummer ray:
The ſummer and the autumn glow in vain;
The ſky for ever low'rs, for ever clouds remain.
Impervious to the ſtep of man it ſtands;
Tho' borne by twenty feet, tho' arm'd with twenty hands.
Smooth as the poliſh of the mirror riſe
The ſlippery ſides, and ſhoot into the ſkies.
Full in the centre of this rock diſplay'd,
A yawning cavern caſts a dreadful ſhade:
Nor the fleet arrow from the twanging bow,
Sent with full force, could reach the depth below.
Wide to the weſt the horrid gulph extends,
And the dire paſſage down to hell deſcends.
O fly the dreadful ſight! expand thy ſails,
Ply the ſtrong oar, and catch the nimble gales!
Here Scylla bellows, from her dire abodes,
Tremendous peſt! abhorr'd by man and Gods!

Hideous

Hideous her voice; and with leſs terrors roar
The whelps of lions in the midnight hour!
Twelve feet deform'd and foul the fiend diſpreads;
Six horrid necks ſhe rears, and fix terrific heads!
Her jaws grin dreadful, with three rows of teeth:
Jaggy they ſtand, the gaping den of death!
Her parts obſcene the raging billows hide,
Her boſom terribly o'erlooks the tide.
When, ſtung with hunger, ſhe embroils the flood,
The ſea-dog and the dolphin are her food:
She makes the huge Leviathan her prey,
And all the monſters of the wat'ry way.
The ſwifteſt racer of the azure plain
Here fills her ſails, and ſpreads her oars in vain:
Fell Scylla riſes, in her fury roars,
At once ſix mouths expands, at once ſix men devours.

POPE, Od. b. xii. 87.

The poet, deſirous of creating a bold fable out of theſe rocks, was obliged to give them a terrific form. That figurative ſenſe which he has ſo frequently employed, and which ſo few of his commentators have underſtood, he made uſe of here; that he might envelop his object in clouds.

This rock in reality is not ſo high as to be covered with clouds on a clear day; but its form is ſtriking, and inſpires terror. At preſent, the rock is not pointed, for a caſtle has been built upon it: yet, even now, had a man

twenty hands and twenty feet, as Homer says, he would not be able to climb it. It rises like a round tower; the breadth of which, compared to its height, may justify the epithet deformed; and, toward the sea, it presents a sharp three-forked cliff. In this cliff we find the three rows of teeth of Homer.

The neighbouring cliffs too presented themselves to the creative fancy of the poet. The fiction of the sea-dog, the dolphin, and the still more huge monsters, which she makes her prey, is founded on an admirable knowledge of the nature of this sea; for it abounds in dolphins, and in a large kind of fish, which the Italians still call *cane del mare:* or sea-dog. It even occasionally happens, of which there was an instance some years ago, that a kind of whale, of the species which the French call *cachelot*, is stranded on these shores.

There have been frequent contests concerning Charybdis; which, as described by Homer, is no longer to be found. He could not mean the lower rocks; for his description has placed Charybdis opposite to Scylla. These countries, ever subject to the grand phenomena of nature, may have suffered great changes from earthquakes. Is not even the

opinion

opinion of ſeveral ancient and modern naturaliſts probable, which maintains that Sicily was anciently ſeparated from Italy by an earthquake?

It was the ſuppoſition of Cluverius that, according to the relation of Homer, which places Charybdis oppoſite to Scylla, it muſt have been at the promontory of *Pelorus;* now called *Capo di Faro:* but, as he could not find it there, he ſuppoſed the whirlpool, which is oppoſite the lighthouſe of Meſſina, to have been the true Charybdis, and accuſes Homer of an error. But how came he not to find the real whirlpool of Homer, which is known to every fiſherman of Scylla, of *Capo di Faro*, and of Meſſina, and forms itſelf between *Capo di Faro* and Scylla? The current runs from the north-eaſt to the ſtraits of Faro. There is a regular ebb and flow of the tide every ſix hours; and, when a ſtrong wind ſets in to oppoſe either the ebb or the flow, a whirlpool ſtill riſes before the promontory*.

This ebb and flow has been aſcribed by ſome to a ſubterranean paſſage, ſaid to exiſt between Mount Ætna and the ſea. By Ariſtotle it is aſcribed, like other ebbs and flows,

* Αριστ. περι Θαυμ. Ακουσμ.

to

to the influence of the moon; and this opinion is confirmed by the regularity of the ſix-hour tide. It is certain that, in the time of Homer, the tides, which are common to but few places of the Mediterranean, were very imperfectly underſtood. He therefore ſays that three times a day Charybdis engulphed the waters, and three times a day vomited them up again.

The navigator of a little packet boat, if unacquainted with theſe ſeas, might probably meet with the misfortune againſt which Circe cautions Ulyſſes, when ſhe warns him, while avoiding Scylla and her projecting cliffs, not to approach the whirlpool of Charybdis.

Seafaring people call this whirlpool and that near Meſſina *Galofaro:* they likewiſe call the laſt *La Rema.* The word *Galofaro* is doubtleſs derived from the Greek; and compounded of the Greek words *calos*, beautiful, and *pharos*, a light houſe. Both the whirlpools have light houſes; one of which ſtands facing Meſſina, and the other *Capo di Faro.*

Early in the morning, before we left Scylla, we were invited, by a perſon of the place to whom we had brought a letter from Naples, to come on the ſea ſhore and view a *peſce di ſpada*,

ſpada, or ſword fiſh, which had been caught in a net during the night. This fiſh is larger than a man; and its under jaw is long, hard, and pointed, like the broad point of a lance: and its no leſs hard upper jaw extends the length of more than an ell and a quarter, like a broad two-edged but pointed ſword.

This fiſh wages remorſeleſs war againſt another kind of fiſh, called the *cane del mare;* but which has nothing in common with the ſea dog. A ſword fiſh and a *cane del mare* were laſt year both together caſt upon the ſhore. The former had run the latter through and through; but the victor could not diſengage himſelf from the vanquiſhed, and with him was obliged to die. The ſword fiſh is highly eſteemed, and we thought it peculiarly well taſted. The Calabrians fiſh for it at this ſeaſon of the year, and take great delight in the ſport. Little boats put to ſea, and a man is ſtationed either on ſhore, upon a rock or tower, or upon a maſt, where he watches the approach of a ſword fiſh. The moment he diſcovers one, he waves a napkin; and the fiſhermen row toward it, armed with hooked lances. If they are fortunate enough to ſtrike it, they keep it faſt by a running line, which is tied to the

the lance; till, at laſt, the fiſh, after much ſtruggling and bleeding, is brought to the boat. We ſaw a man ſtationed on a maſt, and the fiſhermen in their boats ſurrounding him full of expectation.

The princes of Scylla oblige their vaſſals to give them the beſt morſel of the ſword fiſh; and a tenth part of the other fiſh that they take. Loud complaints of this have long been made; and a commiſſion has once been appointed, to enquire into the right of this exaction: but it was ineffectual. The preſent prince continues to compel the poor fiſhermen to comply with his demands; although, occaſionally, ſeveral abuſes of this kind have been aboliſhed by the King.

The ſword fiſh is a fiſh of paſſage. It viſits the coaſt of Calabria in May, June, and a part of July; and afterward the coaſt of Sicily, where this mode of catching it is likewiſe practiſed.

We got under ſail early yeſterday, on our paſſage to Reggio; but, as we were ſo near the Sicilian promontory, we were not willing to leave it unviſited. By this means we gained time; for it would have coſt us a day to have performed this viſit from Meſſina.

The

The promontory of Faro is not remarkable for its height; as might have been conjectured from its Greek name, *Pelorus:* or prodigious: but the whole lofty range of mountains to which it appertains is called *Peloris:* or *Pelorias.*

The tale that Hannibal named this promontory after his pilot, whom he killed in anger and buried there, is abſurd. Not to mention how ridiculous it is to ſuppoſe that Hannibal, who had ſo long lain with his army in *Bruttium*, or South Calabria, ſhould be unacquainted with the ſhores of Sicily, and deceived by appearances ſhould have accuſed his pilot of ſteering him back to Italy, I would aſk what was the name of this promontory before that period? Is it probable that the Greeks, who had lived here for ſome centuries, and in conſequence of its three promontories had called the iſland *Trinacria*, ſhould have left this promontory without a name? The Greeks, who left no little hill unnamed, no name uncelebrated! Did they leave the whole ridge of mountains called Pelorias unnamed? And was the promontory which was one of the three principal capes of Sicily left

undiſtinguiſhed, till a general from Carthage came to give it a name!

We viſited two ſmall lakes, that contain ſalt water and ſhell fiſh, and that have a ſubterranean communication with the ſea. The leaſt is the ſalteſt, and produces good kitchen ſalt. Cluverius found a third, which is likewiſe mentioned by ancient writers: but it may have been dried up ſince his time; for, when I enquired after it, I could receive no ſatisfactory anſwer.

As the wind was againſt us on our paſſage to Reggio, our boatmen rowed to a cape of Calabria, which is called *Pezzo*, from which the boat was drawn by oxen. We went on ſhore, and viſited a perſon who, at the expence of Government, has taught the people of Calabria, by example, to rear ſilk worms after the manner of Piedmont; and to make wine after the manner of the French. Ignorant as I am of the cultivation of ſilk, I can ſay nothing of his merit in this undertaking. The wine is better than the common wine of Calabria; although the vines have only been planted ſix years, and the produce of older vines will be more excellent. The wine has

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ſome reſemblance to that kind of red burgundy which the French call *petit Burgogne*.

The place where this perſon lives is called *Villa di San Giovanni*, and lies oppoſite to Miſeno. The undertaking has been begun by him and his three brothers, whoſe name is *Garacciolo*. They ſelect the beſt plants, pluck the berries from the ſtalk for the wine preſs, and reject the unripe and bad grapes.

Should they ſucceed in improving the culture of ſilk and the making of wine, they will open new ſources of wealth to a country already favoured by nature. The mildneſs of the climate and goodneſs of the ſoil render ſome of the wines of this province, much as the culture of them is neglected, excellent: particularly the wine of *Gerace*, the ancient *Locri*; and other places, where the earth has been turned up by the earthquake. Such kinds are called *Vino del Terremoto*: or earthquake wine.

The wine which is called red Calabria in Germany, nay in Italy itſelf as well as in Sicily, is the produce of Syracuſe. It is ſo noble a liquor that I have ſeen it drunk in Germany for red Cape wine; nay and that of the beſt kind, called *Conſtantia*.

The

The aſpect of Faro, or the ſtraits between Sicily and Calabria, is certainly one of the fineſt in the world. The wind had changed to our advantage while we had landed; and we ſailed, with a freſh gale, between the lofty ſhores of Calabria and Sicily. Behind three ridges of mountains, each more lofty than the other, we ſaw Ætna riſe in the clear blue horizon; and the iſland on which it ſtands; extending its right arm, in gentle declivities, for the ſpace of five German miles, as far as Catania.

The ſtraits of Faro were ſuppoſed by the ancients to be dangerous. During a public feſtival held at *Rhegium*, the preſent *Reggio*, the people of Meſſina once ſent a company of five-and-twenty dancing youths, with their chief dancer and a flute player, who all periſhed here on their paſſage. Pauſanias, who relates the ſtory, ſays that this ſtrait is more ſtormy than all the ſea beſide. Storms blowing from either of its mouths render it boiſterous: ſo that when there is little wind the waves are large, and their agitation is great. The exaggeration of this deſcription would not have been ſo very evident, if Pauſanias had not added that the ſea monſters are

in

in ſuch multitudes that the air is filled with their ſtench, and the ſhipwrecked can find no ſafety *.

Our attention was ſo much attracted by the contemplation of the ſea, and its two ſhores, that we were quite ſurpriſed to find we were arrived at Reggio.

The ancient Greek name of this place, *Rhegium*, or *Rhegion*, Diodorus informs us was derived by ſome from the Greek word Ῥηγνυμι, to break or tear: becauſe, according to ancient tradition, Sicily was torn from Italy. Some ſay this tearing of the iſthmus was effected by the ſea: and others that a change ſo great was produced by an earthquake.

The grand revolutions of nature, to which theſe countries are ſtill ſubject, the jagged forms of the ſhores, and the modern eruptions of the volcanello, one of the ſmall Lipari iſlands, all appear to favour this old opinion. Reggio is very ancient; and thoſe who will not truſt its poetic origin, which attributes it to *Jocaſtrus*, the ſon of that *Æolus* who reigned in Lipari and entertained Ulyſſes a month, muſt conſide in hiſtory:

* Pauſ. lib. v. c. 25.

which attributes its foundation to the *Chalcidians*, who came from *Eubœa* *. The territory of the *Rhegini* was free, ample, and powerful: but it had ſometimes the misfortune to be governed by tyrants. This city, and Meſſina, were both governed by Anaxileos; who died in the firſt year of the 76th Olympiad, 475 years before the birth of Chriſt †.

During the Peloponneſian war, the *Rhegini* ſuffered much from their neighbours, the *Epizephyrian Locri;* and were diſtracted by internal contentions ‡. They were ſo powerful, in the time of the elder Dionyſius, that, to ſtrengthen himſelf, this tyrant demanded a daughter of the city: but the *Rhegini* nobly refuſed the alliance, in a general aſſembly of the people §.

* Cluverius is of this opinion, and founds it on the teſtimony of Strabo and Solinus: though he might much more probably have ſupported it by the authority of Thucydides, who expreſsly ſays that the *Rhegini* were of Chalcidian origin. It was this that made the Athenians hope they ſhould find aſſiſtance from the *Leontini:* whoſe anceſtors likewiſe came from *Chalcis*. THUC. 406, ed. Duk.

† Diod. lib. xi. ‡ Thuc. lib. iv. p. 238.

§ Diod. vol. i. p. 678, ed. Weſſel.

When

When Pyrrhus waged war with the Romans, the latter ſent a legion for the protection of *Rhegium:* but the ſoldiers murdered the citizens, and ſeized on the city. After the war the inſurgents were taken by the Romans, and puniſhed with death, for their cruelty and treachery*.

The Apoſtle Paul, on his journey to Rome, paſſed through this city†; the ſituation of which is one of the moſt beautiful that I have ſeen. It is built on the ſhore of the Faro, in a fruitful valley, with its back toward the hills. Here we had a view of the coaſt of Calabria as far as the promontory of Scylla, and from the oppoſite high ſhore of the *Capo di Faro* to Mount Ætna; an object that dignified the proſpect.

Reggio was nearly deſtroyed by the earthquake of 1783: but a great part of it has been rebuilt, and the ſtreets now are wide, which formerly were narrow. A long row of houſes, which are only two ſtories high, have been built by the ſea ſide at the King's expence on the plan of the celebrated *Pallazata*, at Meſſina.

* Liv. Epit. xii. and xv. † Acts xxviii. 13.

The gardens of Reggio are very extenſive, and produce more fruit of the varieties of orange and lemon than any other part of Italy. All theſe different kinds of fruit are included, by the Italians, under the general name of *Agrumi*. Dates are only produced here, and in ſome places of Sicily: but the trees do not bear every year, nor is the fruit ſo much eſteemed as the dates of Africa, and Aſia. A palm tree, of the date-bearing kind, in the court of the archiepiſcopal palace of Taranto excepted, I have no where in Italy ſeen this tree ſo large as at Reggio. It has a grand appearance; and the conſtant ruſtling of its leaves is charming. New twigs annually grow from the top, which bend downward on all ſides; while annually the under branches break off, and leave a ſcaly mark behind. From theſe ſcales the age of the tree may be known. Some Turks, who had viſited Taranto, eſtimated the palm tree there to be four hundred years old.

The mulberry and fig trees of Reggio are very large. Either I miſtake or I have ſomewhere read that none but theſe fig trees bear twice a year: however not only the fig trees

of Reggio but of Sicily and of Naples have this virtue: ſome mountainous parts excepted.

The firſt figs, which ripen before the middle of June, are called *fiori di fichi:* or flowers of figs. They are far preferable to our figs; yet not ſo good as thoſe produced in both kingdoms in the months of July, Auguſt, and September. They are ſo ſucculent that the dripping juice hangs in pellucid drops, while the fruit is on the tree; reſembling honey, in clearneſs, colour, and ſweetneſs.

The Italians have a bad but general cuſtom of oiling the fig on the tree, that it may ripen the ſooner. They paſs a drop of oil through a reed, which from the ſtalk deſcends to the fig: but this fruit is not ſo healthy as that in which no ſuch artifice has been uſed.

We had letters to ſome people of the place, but did not find them at home; and I have ſince been informed that it is cuſtomary, among the people of Reggio, to be denied to travellers. This cuſtom is the leſs to their honour becauſe the Calabrians, of all the other towns, are hoſpitable in a high degree; and

kindly invite, heartily welcome, and generouſly entertain, ſtrangers that have no letters of recommendation.

I would very willingly have made a trip from Reggio to *Gerace*, the ancient *Locri*; but I learned that it was a long day's journey by land, and that the road was difficult, and unpleaſant; and it requires much time to go by water: for the promontory of *Spartivento*, formerly of Hercules, on the ſouth-eaſt point of Italy, is dreaded by ſeamen becauſe of its boiſterous waves, and can only be paſſed when the wind is favourable.

Locri was built on the *Capo Burſano*; which was formerly called the promontory of *Zephyrium*: from which the people of the city acquired the name of the *Epizephyrian Locri*.

The *Locri Opuntii* * founded this city in the

* The Locri conſiſted of four tribes. The *Locri Opuntii* lived between *Phocis* and *Eubœa*: The *Locri Ozolæ* weſt of *Phocis*: ſo that this tract of land ſeparated the *Opuntii*, who were likewiſe called the *Eaſt Locri*, from the *Ozolæ* or *Weſt Locri*. The *Locri Epicnemidii*, or *Hypocnemidii*, inhabited, north of both the others, the mountain of *Cnemis*. The *Epizephyrian Locri* took their name from the *Zephyrian* promontory in Italy, which they inhabited. The *Epizephyrian Locri* were a colony of the *Locri Opuntii*; who were ſo called from their principal city, *Opus*.

ſecond

ſecond year of the 24th Olympiad, at the time that Tullus Hoſtilius governed in Rome *.

The *Epizephyrian Locri* were famous for the laws given them by their fellow-citizen, *Zaleucus;* who was a ſcholar of Pythagoras, and whom they named their law-giver.

According to ſome *Zaleucus* was of noble birth: others affirm he was a ſhepherd, and poetically relate that he was inſtructed by Minerva. In oppoſition to theſe, ſome place the time in which he lived under the nine-and-twentieth Olympiad.

It is well proved, however, that he was the firſt among the Greeks who gave written laws; and his code was chiefly collected from the laws of Minos, of Lycurgus, and the Athenian *Areopagus*.

Diodorus inſpires us with a very high idea of the wiſdom of this law-giver.

"In the preface to his Code, he begins with "diſcourſing on the Celeſtial Deities; to be-"lieve in whom was the firſt duty required of "a good citizen. From a view of the hea-"venly bodies, and the order that reigned "through creation, they were required to be-"lieve that the world was not the work of

* Cluv. Ital. Ant.

" chance, but of the Gods. They were there-
" fore to honour the Gods, as the authors of
" all that was good and beautiful among man-
" kind. They were to keep the ſoul pure
" from all guilt: for the Gods did not de-
" light in the ſacrifices which were offered
" them by the wicked, however coſtly, but
" rather in the juſtice and the virtue of good
" men.

" After having exhorted the citizens to
" piety and juſtice in his preface, he recom-
" mends brotherly love; and taught that he
" ſhould always conſider his enemy as a per-
" ſon with whom it was poſſible he might
" be reconciled, and become his friend: and
" whoever would not act thus muſt be con-
" ſidered as a man of an unſanctified and ſa-
" vage ſoul.

" To thoſe who derived power from their
" office he recommended rigid impartiality;
" and required that they ſhould neither be
" inſolent nor oppreſſive.

" Other law-givers puniſhed luxury with
" fines; Zaleucus in a more underſtanding
" manner. He forbade any woman to be
" attended by more than one female ſlave,
" unleſs ſhe happened to be a little drunk.

" She

" She muſt not leave the city by night, unleſs " ſhe went to commit adultery: nor muſt " ſhe wear golden ornaments, and embroi- " dered robes, unleſs her inclinations were " unchaſte. In like manner, he would not " ſuffer the men to wear gold rings, or fine " wool, like the Mileſians, unleſs they were " fornicators, or adulterers. The diſgrace, " annexed to theſe permitted exceptions, was " more effectual than any other penalty.

" His laws were famous for their clearneſs " concerning contracts, and perplexed caſes*."

Pardon this digreſſion, which criticiſm may tell me is blameable, becauſe I have not been at Gerace; but to me it appears intereſting, particularly in the preſent age, to remark how the wiſeſt of the ancient lawgivers founded law upon religion. How great too were their difficulties, from the ſpirit of the Pagan religion, and eſpecially of the Greeks: the Gods of whom afforded them examples of every vice. What muſt we think of our modern lawgivers, who, in the conflict of opinions,

* Pindar ſays of the *Epizephyrian Locri* that Rectitude reſided among them.

Νεμει γαρ 'Ατρεκεια πολιν Λοκρων
Ζεφυριων. PIND.

while

while they heap decree upon decree, agree only in the deſtruction of the true and holy religion of Jeſus Chriſt?

I left the moſt beautiful province of beautiful Italy with regret. More expoſed to the all vivifying ſun than their countrymen, the inhabitants are refreſhed by the breezes of the two ſeas, are ſhaded by their high mountains and foreſts, and are watered by numerous ſprings; which enliven the fields and clothe them with a ſhining and ever verdant herbage. All that the other parts of the world contain of the ſublime and beautiful is found collected in Calabria. Here the Indian may eat his date, and the Laplander gratify his eye with the ſnows of Ætna.

The Mediterranean, the coaſt of Calabria, and the coaſt of Sicily, the ſtraits of Meſſina here, and there the open ſea, the Lipari iſlands, each riſing like an individual mountain, and the lofty Ætna, which reigns in fearful beauty, continually attracting the eye back to Sicily and rendering Sicily itſelf inſignificant, all theſe grand objects, combined with the vivifying charms of ever blooming nature, nurſing man in her lap and pouring upon him her innumerable charms, filled me with a ſenſation

tion which makes language, when attempting to expreſs it, bluſh at its own inſufficiency; a ſenſation which will ſweeten all the recollections and aſſociations of life; and which, while it puriſies the feelings and renders them ſacred, expands and ennobles my exiſtence! Nor was it deſtroyed; it only took a new direction, at the thought that this paradiſe of fruits and flowers was the arſenal of the Almighty. Calabria is the focus of ſubterranean fire; which breathes and exhales through Veſuvius, through Stromboli, and through Ætna.

It is probable that there are few fruits in the known earth that are not found in the greateſt perfection, produced by this friendly ſoil.

Calabria teems under a fertilizing heaven. Earth, ſea, and ſky, conſpire to crown her: but ſhe bears a giant in her womb, by whoſe convulſive throes ſhe has been frequently ſhaken. She groans while ſuffering under the pangs he inflicts; and theſe groans make the fixed earth tremble from pole to pole!

So be it. Happy are they to whom the voice of the Lord is welcome, though it ſpeak in thunder!

LET-

LETTER LXXXV.

Meſſina, 30th May 1792.

AMONG his other high merits, Homer poſſeſſes the additional one of having caſt a light over the knowledge of the countries, and people, that he had viſited; by which the darkneſs of the geography and hiſtory of antiquity has in part been removed, and in part left in a kind of twilight: through which, though the objects are not diſtinctly ſeen, they ſtill are diſcoverable. Or I might liken him to the moon; whoſe ſoft beams, ſhed over mountains, foreſts, and ſeas, pourtray their grand outline, but conceal their maſſes in ſuch a ſilver veil that an unexerciſed eye diſcovers only ſtrange incident, terrifying phantom, and ſupernatural enchantment: while a more experienced, a more penetrating mind delights in the multiplied forms, and indulges imagination in the half viſible, half concealed, gigantic ſpectres that dance before it; yet, though amazed, it is not confounded, but can reduce the viſion to congruity, to order, and to uſe.

The

The bold fables of Homer, concerning the Cyclops, favour and promote a tradition which certainly was not wholly groundleſs. That theſe early inhabitants of Sicily were giants no man can poſitively aſſert, or deny. As little is it known whether they were the firſt poſſeſſors of this iſland, or whether they drove the ancient inhabitants beyond the ſea, or obliged them to retire from the coaſt and live among the mountains. The Cyclops certainly inhabited the weſt of Sicily: but to what extent is entirely dubious. From Homer we learn that they bitterly oppreſſed the *Phæaces:* till at laſt the latter fled from their tyranny, under the conduct of *Nauſithous*, the father of *Alcinous*, who entertained Ulyſſes when he landed on the iſland of *Scheria* *: the preſent *Corfu.*

The *Læſtrygones*, according to Thucydides, very early inhabited Sicily: but this great writer acknowledges, with dignified candour, that he knew nothing of the place from which they came, or of the people from whom they were derived. The *Læſtrygones* of Homer inhabited Italy: but the ſame people may as probably have ſettled on the continent as on

* Od. b. vii.

the

the iſland. Thucydides himſelf ſays *; "The "*Sicani* maintained themſelves to be *Au-* "*tochthones:* or the aborigines of the country: "yet they were originally from *Iberia*, or "Spain, and were driven out of the country, "to the river *Sicanus*, by the Ligurians." The Ligurians lived between Piedmont and Genoa. From the *Sicani* the iſland was called *Sicania.* Its former name was *Trinacria.* Homer calls it *Trinacia;* and probably the Greeks changed the name to *Trinacria* becauſe of its three promontories. The Sicani continued to inhabit the weſt part of the iſland in the time of Thucydides; who lived about four hundred years before the birth of Chriſt. After the deſtruction of Troy, ſome Trojans, eſcaping from the Greeks, fled to Sicily, landed near the *Sicani*, and were called *Elymi:* or *Helymi.* Their towns were *Erix* and *Egeſta:* or *Segeſta:* for both names are found in books, and on coins. Thucydides and Diodorus write *Egeſta.* At the ſame period, the *Phocenſes*, who with the reſt of the Greeks had been at the taking of Troy, ſettled in Sicily: having firſt been driven to Africa, by a ſtorm. Some tribes had already fled from Italy to this

* Lib. vi. c. 2. p. 378, ed. Duk.

iſland,

iſland, who called themſelves *Siculi*. Thucydides ſays that there were *Siculi* in Italy in his time: but the aſſertion of Diodorus, that this nation with its whole power, πανδημει, withdrew to Sicily, appears to me more probable: at leaſt I do not remember to have found any later mention of the *Siculi* in Italy among ancient writers, Thucydides excepted; who was not perfectly well informed reſpecting the ancient tribes of Italy.

After the Cyclops, the *Læſtrygones*, and the *Phæaces*, the *Sicani* were the firſt people known in Sicily: a part of which they poſſeſſed while the other three tribes lived on the iſland; and the *Siculi*, when they came here, found it inhabited by all theſe different people.

The fear of pirates, a fear which has tormented theſe iſlanders for about three thouſand five hundred years, and which ſtill torments them, induced the *Sicani* at firſt to live in villages, κωμηδον, and build on ſtrong hills. Each of theſe diviſions had its own prince. At firſt, Diodorus ſays *, they ſpread themſelves over the whole iſland: but, as Mount Ætna cauſed much devaſtation, they forſook

* Vol. i. lib. v. p. 334.

the

the eaſt ſide, and withdrew to the weſt. Many generations afterward, the *Siculi* came from Italy, and took poſſeſſion of the lands which the *Sicani* had left: but, as they continued to extend themſelves and the frontiers of each were ravaged, frequent wars aroſe between them; till the two people concluded a treaty, by which their reſpective boundaries were ſettled. In later times, Greek colonies arrived, and built cities on the ſea coaſt. Intercourſe occaſioned the Greek manners and language finally to prevail; and the people were then called *Sicilians* *. Theſe Greek colonies I ſhall occaſionally mention.

Thucydides tells us that the Phœnicians likewiſe had ſcattered ſettlements over all Sicily; and that they preferred the promontories, and ſmall neighbouring iſlands, as the beſt adapted for their trade with the *Siculi*. After

* The *Siculi*, Σικελοι, by accurate writers, are not confounded with the *Sicilians*, Σικελιωται; which laſt epithet is only applied to the Greeks, who inhabited Sicily. Their colonies, of which Diodorus ſpeaks above, arrived many centuries, ſix or ſeven at the leaſt, after the arrival of the Siculi in the iſland. Naxus, the firſt of theſe colonies, was inhabited by the Greeks ſeven hundred and thirty-three years before the birth of Chriſt: as was Syracuſe the following year. The more ancient Greeks, who

After the arrival of numerous Greek colonies, the Phœnicians abandoned moſt of their ſettlements, and retired to *Motya*, *Soloris*, or *Solus*, the preſent *Solanto*, and to *Panormus*, the modern *Palermo*, near the *Elymi*; depending upon their alliance with this people, and their vicinity to Carthage: becauſe this city was a Phœnician colony; and on the *Elymi* no doubt becauſe they were Trojans by deſcent, and conſidered as the natural enemies of the Greeks.

When the Carthaginians were in poſſeſſion of large tracts of the north and weſt parts of Sicily, their three principal places were *Motya*, *Soloris*, and *Panormus*. Probably they were ceded to them by the *Tyrians*, in conſequence of advantageous commercial ſtipulations: for commerce was the delight of the latter; while the Carthaginians delighted to govern, as well

who ſettled in Sicily after the Trojan war, are not underſtood by ancient writers, when they ſpeak of Greek colonies, or Sicilians. From the Siculi, the iſland took and maintained the name of *Sicilia* among the Romans, or *Sikelia* among the Greeks. We ſhould no more confound the Siculi with the Sicilians than the *Itali*, Ιταλοι, with the Italians: Ιταλιωται. The firſt were the natives of the country, whom the Greeks called Barbarians; while their epithet for their own colonies in Italy was *Italians*.

as to trade. It is certain that the Phœnicians were not expelled by the power of the Carthaginians; becauſe theſe towns remained in friendly alliance with their parent city, *Tyre*.

By the firſt Punic war, the Carthaginians were deprived of their territories in Sicily; and by the ſecond they likewiſe loſt Syracuſe: from which period the whole iſland became a Roman province.

On the partition of the Roman empire, Sicily became ſubject to the Emperors of the Eaſt. The iſland was conquered by Genſerick, King of the Vandals; and recovered by Beliſarius, for Juſtinian. Before the middle of the ninth century, it was ſeized on by the Saracens; who, two hundred and twenty-five years afterward, in the year 1070, were expelled by the leaders of the Normans, the two brothers, Robert Guiſcard and Roger: or *Ruggiero*. Roger the Second, in the year 1130, took the title of King; and reigned over Sicily, and the Kingdom of Naples. Conſtantia, the daughter of William the Firſt, brought it as a bridal portion to the German Emperor, Henry the Sixth. From them it devolved on their ſon, Frederick; who, among our Emperors, is known as Frederick the Second.

Second. It was thus that Sicily was inherited by the houſe of Swabia.

After the death of Conrad the Fourth, who was the ſon of Frederick, Manfred, Frederick's natural ſon, ſeized on the two kingdoms; and Pope Urban the Fourth, and after him Clement the Fourth, conferred both the crowns on Charles of Anjou, brother of the French King, Lewis the Ninth. Charles rendered himſelf odious, and the people invited Conrad, whom the Italians call *Corradino*, the ſon of the Emperor Conrad the Fourth, to take poſſeſſion of the throne of his fathers; and Conrad was killed by Charles at *Taglia cozzo;* a little town in the province of *Abruzza oltra.* Frederick of Auſtria, his friend and couſin, was impriſoned *. Conradin had fled, diſguiſed as a follower of the camp, to Aſtura; where he went on board a boat, and promiſed the boatman his ring, becauſe he had no money, if he would bring him to Piſa. This ring, with the noble appearance and youthful beauty of Conradin, made him remarked by the man; who betrayed him to Charles, by whom he was ſent to Naples, and who, with the conſent of the

* Fazello.

Pope, condemned Conradin and Frederick of Auſtria to death. Frederic was firſt beheaded; and Conradin, taking the head from the ground, affectionately kiſſed it, and followed his friend. Charles and his Holineſs were playing at cheſs, when the news of the execution was brought them, and finiſhed their game undiſturbed.

The mother of Conradin was on board a veſſel, lying at the iſland of Capri, when her ſon was condemned. She ſet ſail to purchaſe his pardon, landed at Naples, and heard of his death.

Charles governed with deſpotic caprice; and the French, with whom he inundated the country, committed every crime of voluptuouſneſs, oppreſſion, and cruelty. John of Procida, a man of an enterpriſing ſpirit, who had been groſsly injured by the French in the perſon of his wife, made himſelf the chief of a conſpiracy. He travelled, diſguiſed like a monk, to Conſtantinople, to the Greek Emperor, Michael Paleologus, to Pope Nicholas the Third, and to Peter King of Arragon, to whom the conſpirators offered the crown of Sicily. Peter was allied to the houſe of Swabia, by his marriage with Conſtantia, who

was

was the daughter of Manfred, and who day and night excited him to revenge the wrongs committed on the race of *Hohenſtaufen*. Michael Paleologus and the Pope, who both hated Charles of Anjou, gave ear to Procida, and promiſed to favour Peter.

John made ſeveral journeys, always under the ſame diſguiſe, from one of theſe Princes to the other: but the death of the Pope and the election of Martin the Fourth, who was ſtrongly in favour of the French, appeared to render the execution of the plan impoſſible. Peter however armed, and anſwered the nuncio of the Pope, who queſtioned him on the ſubject, "I would burn my ſhirt, if it "knew my ſecrets."

Procida, in the mean while, engaged the grandees of Sicily in this dreadful conſpiracy; and, on the third day of Eaſter, in the year 1282, which happened on the 30th of March, while the bell was tolling to veſpers, the French were all murdered.

This day is an everlaſting ſtain to both nations. It is true that the French had rendered themſelves deteſted: but the manner in which they were maſſacred, ſparing neither ſex nor age, was no leſs hateful than were the crimes they had committed.

Fazello, a good Sicilian hiſtorian of the ſixteenth century, from whom I have extracted theſe particulars, adds that he had followed the common opinion in his narrative: but that, according to other accounts, which he had diſcovered in various annals and royal documents, this ſanguinary buſineſs was not the conſequence of a long conſpiracy, but apparently the work of chance. Several of the people of Palermo, on the third day of Eaſter, as they were going to a church near the town, were attacked by the French; who ſearched the clothes of men and women, on the pretence of their having arms concealed. The French on this occaſion indulged themſelves in vile exceſſes, committed on the women and young virgins; and one of them, whoſe name was *Droſetto*, having thruſt his hand into the boſom of a noble matron, was ſtoned by the already highly enraged people of Palermo, whoſe concourſe was great. The rage of the people continued and increaſed, till the French were entirely exterminated: firſt in Palermo, and afterward through the whole iſland.

If this account be true, and it is ſaid to be founded on good authority, John of Procida may then be reckoned among thoſe great men who

who have freed their country from the yoke of foreign deſpotiſm: but, if he had any part in a maſſacre which ſpared neither ſex nor age, it muſt be allowed that his great qualities were ſullied by the worſt of crimes.

Peter of Arragon became King of Sicily; and, when Johanna the Second, Queen of Naples, in the year 1420, adopted Alphonſus the Fifth King of Arragon, Sicily was again in his perſon united to Naples. But, as the houſe of Anjou made new pretenſions, Johanna, being diſſatisfied with Alphonſus, adopted Lewis of Anjou in his ſtead; and, at her death, bequeathed the crown to his brother, Renatus of Anjou.

The Kings of Arragon remained in poſſeſſion of the two kingdoms; till, at the end of the fifteenth century, after the death of Ferdinand the Second, his paternal uncle, Frederick of Arragon was robbed of the crown by Ferdinand the Catholic, King of Spain, and Lewis the Twelfth, King of France. The monarchs divided the two kingdoms; but Ferdinand ſoon acquired the ſovereignty both of Naples and Sicily.

From this time, theſe countries remained above two hundred years under the dominion

of Spain; till, during the war of the ſucceſſion, in the year 1707, an Imperial army ſeized on the kingdom of Naples, in the name of King Charles the Third; who afterward became Emperor, under the title of Charles the Sixth.

At the peace of 1713, Sicily was ceded by France to Victor Amadeus the Second, Duke of Savoy: by whom it was held till the year 1718; when he reſigned it to the Emperor, Charles the Sixth, in exchange for Sardinia. During the five years that it was under the government of Savoy, Sicily was provided with many wiſe laws, and noble inſtitutions.

In the year 1734, Don Carlos, Infant of Spain, became poſſeſſed of both kingdoms, in conſequence of the battle of Bitonto; and two years afterward they were ceded to him and his ſucceſſors, by the Emperor.

In the year 1759, Don Carlos declared his ſon, Ferdinand the Fourth, King of Naples and Sicily: he having himſelf ſucceeded to the throne of Spain. Ferdinand, who is the preſent King, acceded to the government in the year 1762. The memory of Don Carlos is revered in both kingdoms; and a traveller every where finds proofs of his wiſe precau-

tions

tions, in behalf of the ſafety, convenience, and proſperity, of the people.

A complete hiſtory of Sicily is no part of my plan: but, as it appears to me that a brief account of the individual towns of an iſland, which has been the theatre of ſo many events, might be uſeful, I imagine that an abſtract of the hiſtory of the country will not be thought ſuperfluous.

On the 27th, we ſet ſail from Reggio to Meſſina. The ſituation of this town is univerſally and juſtly celebrated for its beauty. It is built facing the bay, and is covered by mountains; the intermingling heights and depths of which afford traces that appear to denote great convulſions. The bay, extending to the right, from ſouth ſouth-weſt to north north-eaſt, is in the ſhape of a ſickle, and the cape curves in ſuch a manner as almoſt to encloſe the haven. On the point of this cape there is a high lighthouſe. Diodorus mentions a tradition, according to which the fabulous Orion, at the requeſt of Zanclus, an ancient king of this place, is ſaid to have formed the haven by throwing up a dam *.

Whether it be, as Diodorus ſays, that

* Diod. vol. i. lib. iv. p. 327.

Meſſina

Meſſina in early ages was called *Zancle*, after this King, or as Thucydides aſſerts, after the word *Zanclon*, which in the language of the *Siculi* was the name of a ſickle, in either caſe the antiquity of the town is proved.

According to Thucydides, its firſt Greek poſſeſſors were pirates, from *Cumæ* in *Campania*; the inhabitants of which originally came from *Chalcis*, in *Eubœa*. Its territories were afterward poſſeſſed by the Chalcidenſes, and other people of Eubœa. Theſe were baniſhed by the *Samii*, and other *Ionians*: who, flying before the Perſians, landed in Sicily *.

Herodotus relates this ſtory with circumſtances that may ſerve to throw a light over ages which we, from our love for the ancients, are prone to rate too highly.

"When Darius, the ſon of Hyſtaſpes, "wiſhed to ſubdue the iſlands of Greece, and "the people of Samos ſaw that they could not "reſiſt his power, they determined to leave "their country. About this time the people "of *Zancle* ſent ambaſſadors to the people "of *Ionia*, inviting them to found an *Ionian* "town on their charming ſhores. Theſe "charming ſhores, as they were called, be-

* Thuc. p. 380.

" longed to the *Siculi;* and lay on that part " of the iſland which was facing the *Tyrrhe-* " *nian* ſea*.

" The *Samii* were properly *Ionians;* and, " being joined by the *Mileſii*, who eſcaped " from Miletus after it had been deſtroyed by " the Perſians, accepting the invitation, ſailed " for Sicily. When they had arrived in the " country of the *Epizephyrian Locri*, at the " time that the people of Zancle, led by their " King Scythes, were beſieging a city of the " Siculi, which they intended to deſtroy, the " Samii were perſuaded, by Anaxileus the " tyrant of Rhegium, who was the enemy of " Zancle, to think no more of the charming " ſhores, but to ſeize upon Zancle now that " the men were abſent: and the Samii fol- " lowed his advice.

" As ſoon as the people of Zancle heard " that their city was thus poſſeſſed, they haſt- " ened to require aid of Hippocrates, the ty- " rant of Gela; who took Scythes, the ruler " of Zancle, and his brother, Pythogenes, put " them in fetters, and ſent them both to the " city of *Inycum*. The reſt of the citizens of " Zancle he betrayed to the Samii; for which

* Toward the north, between Meſſina and Palermo.

" he

" he had the half of the ſlaves, the chattels of " the city, and likewiſe thoſe of the territory. " Moſt of the people of Zancle he kept as " ſlaves; but ſurrendered three hundred of the " chief of them to the Samii, to be ſtrangled: " which cruelty the Samii forbore to perpe- " trate*."

According to Thucydides, the Samii were expelled by Anaxileus: but this does not contradict the account of Herodotus. The compacts of the wicked have no bond, but their common intereſt.

Thucydides adds that, after Anaxileus had driven out the Samii, he called the city Meſſina: becauſe he came from the country of *Meſſenia*, in Peloponneſus†. Anaxileus died in the firſt year of the 76th Olympiad, 475 years before the birth of Chriſt, continuing till death the tyrant of Rhegium and Zancle. Mycithus, the tutor of his children, honourably governed in their name: but the ſons of Anaxileus, when they ſucceeded to the government themſelves, were expelled by the people of Zancle and Rhegium, who both aſſerted their freedom‡.

* Herod. lib. vi. no. 22, 23. † Thuc. lib. vi. p. 380.

‡ Diod. vol. i. p. 440, 454, 461.

Juſt

Juſt before the Peloponneſian war, a party in the divided Meſſina called in the Locri; who continued for ſome time in poſſeſſion of the city, but were afterward expelled.

Under the elder Dionyſius, Meſſina was taken and deſtroyed by the Carthaginians; and again re-peopled by Dionyſius. It then groaned under the yoke of two tyrants; Hipparcus, and Hippo. Timoleon the Corinthian, who was always victorious and always the victor of freedom, beſtowed the bleſſings of liberty on Meſſina. It was likewiſe diſturbed by Agathocles, the tyrant of Sicily; and was afterward conquered by the people of Campania, from Mamertum, and many of the citizens were maſſacred. The Carthaginians and Hiero the Second, King of Syracuſe, marched againſt the aſſailants; and the people of Mamertum aſked and, to the eternal ſhame of Rome, obtained aid of the Romans, which gave occaſion to the firſt Punic war.

Under the Roman dominion, Meſſina long enjoyed peace. The rapacious Prætor, Verres, ſpared this city; which diſgraced itſelf by furniſhing him with a ſhip, for the tranſportation of the wealth he had acquired by plunder.

In the war between Octavianus and Sextus Pompeius, Meſſina took part with the latter.

It was not till two hundred years * after the Saracens had been poſſeſſed of Sicily that they could gain poſſeſſion of this place; into which they carried fire and ſword, and where they only remained two years. The nobles of Meſſina invited the Norman chiefs, who drove the Saracens out of Sicily. In the year 1060, Meſſina was taken by Roger, Count of Calabria; who, after the conqueſt of the iſland, called himſelf Count of Calabria and Sicily.

After the Sicilian veſpers, Meſſina once more endured a ſevere ſiege from Charles of Anjou. Young and old, layman and prieſt, united to oppoſe this enemy; by whoſe pride they had been oppreſſed, and whoſe enflamed rage they dreaded. The noble matrons afforded an example to the women, took part in defence of their country, and, diſagreeable as it may be to ſee this gentle ſex forgetful of their fine ſenſations, and neglecting their houſehold duties, regardleſs of fear or ſhame to mingle thus among contending multitudes, yet, in this caſe, they muſt not be ſo condemned: for there was no injury, no diſgrace,

* Fazello: the end of the ſixth book.

which

which they might not juſtly dread from a cruel and licentious foe, whoſe laſcivious exceſs would have been exerciſed upon them and their children. They ſupplied their huſbands, fathers, brothers, and ſons, with arms and ſtones; carried them refreſhing beverage, and preſented the infants at their boſom, exhorting them to pity and protect the helpleſs and the innocent. The citizens heard, and courageouſly defended themſelves, till Peter of Arragon came to their relief *.

The Kings of Arragon were as kind to Meſſina as were the Kings of the Norman race; by whom it had been eſpecially favoured. In the year 1673, when Charles the Second governed, Meſſina was diſturbed by factions; one of which was ſo mad as to betray the town to Lewis the Fourteenth, by whom however it could not be maintained.

It was ſeverely chaſtiſed by Spain. The King deprived it of its privileges, and the council of its former authority. The city fell to decay; but it once more recovered under Victor Amadeus the Second.

In the year 1741, Meſſina was dreadfully viſited by the plague; which was ſoon fol-

* Fazello: the end of the eighth book.

lowed

lowed by a deſtructive kind of ſmall pox. At this time, the population was reduced from about ſeventy to twenty thouſand ſouls. It is affirmed that, in the laſt century, it contained a hundred thouſand inhabitants.

It was half deſtroyed in 1783, by the earthquake: but it has in great part been rebuilt, and the ſtreets are now more ſpacious and handſome. Their houſes are palaces: yet they have wiſely built them only two ſtories high, from the fear of future ſhocks; when the higheſt houſes are always in the greateſt danger. The earthquake, in general, deſtroyed only the upper ſtories: the lower parts of the building were moſt of them left ſtanding. Experience has taught that this is frequently the caſe: for which reaſon thoſe people who can preſerve their preſence of mind, amid terror ſo ſudden, ſeek ſafety under the doors, and windows, rather than in the ſtreet.

The undermoſt ſtories of the new houſes are built upon arcades, in moſt of which there are ſhops.

The earthquake had the ſame effect here on the women as in Scylla. Some, who had been ſixteen or eighteen years married and childleſs, conceived and brought forth. Of

thoſe

thoſe who were pregnant, when the terror of the ſhocks ſeized them, none miſcarried. I yeſterday converſed with a woman of Naples, who has much courage and animation, who was pregnant when her houſe was thrown down, and who remained ſixty-five nights without a bed to ſleep in. This too was from the 5th of February; yet ſhe was delivered, at her proper time, of a healthy child, and was well herſelf.

The *Palazata*, which, following the gentle curvings of the ſhore, was built the whole length of the city, muſt have been the moſt beautiful ſtructure of its kind. It conſiſted of a row of ſimilar palaces, that were four ſtories high; and its preſent ruins are ſufficient proofs of its former grandeur.

The reaſon that it has not been rebuilt is the deſire of the King that it ſhould be as high as before; from a ſuppoſition that it protected the haven againſt the wind: but the citizens, taught by experience, dreaded a building of four ſtories high. They were certainly right; and, ſhould the King at laſt accompliſh his often intended and as often diſappointed viſit to Sicily, his own eye would convince him that the haven, protected as it is by the moun-

tains immediately behind the city, has no occaſion of any ſhelter from the wind which the palaces could afford.

This haven, which Charles the Sixth made a free port, is certainly one of the fineſt in Europe. The long and broad open place, between the *Palazata* and the ſea, ſerves the inhabitants as a walk; from which there is a grand proſpect toward the Faro, and the coaſt of Calabria. A grove of elms and poplars is planted here, which extends to the ſemicircular cape. At the extremity of this wood the citadel is built; and in the middle of the haven the great light-houſe and the *Lazaretto*, where the mariners that come from the Levant perform quarantine*. The citadel was built ſoon after Meſſina was again in the poſſeſſion of Spain, when it had reſigned itſelf to Lewis the Fourteenth. There is likewiſe a ſtrong fortreſs on the extreme point of the ſickle, or cape;

* This reſtraint of performing quarantine, which is not always of forty days duration, but is ſhortened according to circumſtances and ſeldom increaſed, is ſo injurious to the trade of the Levant as frequently to be its deſtruction. What gain can the merchant receive who is obliged to keep his whole crew inactive at the *Lazaretto*, or in a veſſel beſide the *Lazaretto*, from a fortnight to five and ſix

cape; and the city is overlooked and defended by three others.

The mountains which rise behind Messina in the form of a half moon, belong to the mountains which the ancients sometimes called *Pelorium*, and sometimes the mountains of *Neptune*. They extend from *Taormina* to *Capo di Faro*.

Early yesterday, we took boat at the haven and went to the great light-house; by the side of which is the whirlpool, supposed to be the Charybdis of Homer: the whirlpool of *Capo di Faro* having been overlooked. Both of these whirlpools are occasioned by the contest that happens, when the winds and currents oppose each other. Our seamen were well acquainted with the other whirlpool, and said it was much the strongest; because the strait there was much the smallest.

six weeks? The Venetians reckon the quarantine from the day on which the ship left the place suspected of the plague; which is evidently more rational. It is alleged that the seamen might have had intercourse with infected people: but can no dependance be placed on the uniform testimony of the crew? Could no penalty be inflicted, on falsehood, which they neither all would wish nor all would dare to incur; and by which prevarication would not only be attended with shame but punishment?

The *Agrumi* are as excellent, in the gardens of Meſſina, as they are at Reggio. The ſweet kind of citron, which is called *valenziana*, is as large as a ſmall melon. There is likewiſe a kind of citron here, and in Calabria, which is nearly round, but ſuddenly pointed at the end. This too is a ſweet ſort, is more odoriferous than the other, and is called *limonella di Spagna:* the little Spaniſh lemon.

Meſſina trades largely in the products of the iſland; which is ſo bountifully gifted by nature. The principal articles are corn, oil, wine, ſilk, raw and wrought, fruits, and pot aſh.

The preſent population of Meſſina, according to different accounts, is eſtimated at leaſt to be ſix-and-thirty thouſand. The air is very healthy; and, compared to the reſt of Sicily, is cool.

LETTER LXXXVI.

Palermo, 5th June 1792.

WE left Meſſina early on the 31ſt of May, and ſoon came to the ſteep winding road of a mountain, which the ancients called *Eunes*, and *Senes**. Like the neighbouring country, it is covered with broom, bruſhwood, and fern; and would afford little pleaſure were it not that, on one ſide, there is a proſpect from it toward the ſea and Meſſina, whoſe circular bay and cape are remarkably charming, which atones for the barren uniformity of the other ſide.

We left this height in the neighbourhood of the ſea, and ſoon came to a diſtrict in which the induſtry of the people appears to vie with the excellence of the ſoil. Among the tall grain ſtood the mulberry, the fig, and the pomegranate tree, as high as any that we had ſeen in the fineſt parts of Calabria. Many people were employed in ſtripping the leaf from the mulberry tree. Like the wife pro-

* Cluv. Sic. Ant.

viſion made for the camel, which kneeling while it is loaded has a peculiar ſkin to guard the knee, and the back of which, that it may bear the better, is gifted with a kind of natural ſaddle, ſo the growth of the mulberry tree, which here is uncommonly large, forms itſelf in a manner that women and children can eaſily climb to its topmoſt boughs. The ſilk-worm will now ſoon begin to ſpin; and they give it leaves in plenty, that its produce may be the greater. Both the kingdoms have two annual harveſts of ſilk; an early, and a late. The early ſilk worm ſpins at the end of May, or the beginning of June: the late at the end of July. The ſilk of the laſt is the fineſt. The culture of ſilk was not introduced to Italy and Sicily by the ancients.

The fig tree here attains a great ſize. I ſaw a large flock of ſheep lie at their eaſe under the ſhade of a ſingle tree.

We ſaw barley reaped. Other barley, nay and oat fields were already again prepared, and ſowed with Turkiſh wheat *(maize)* which they here call *grano d'India*, Indian corn, and *granone*, or great corn. We ſaw grain of this kind, in ſome fields, which already was half an ell high. The earth was turned and the

clods

clods broken with the hoe, as well on these fields that were again sowed as on those that had been lately ploughed. It is a troublesome labour, but much more useful than our harrow; the use of which, if I do not mistake, is unknown in Naples and Sicily*. The rye, which here as in Italy is called *grano Germano*, or German corn, is ready for the sickle. Beside the kinds of wheat known to us, there are several others here, of which I mean to be better informed. Most of the wheat and the rye are sown in February, and reaped in June.

The fields in general are planted with the Indian fig: *cactus opuntia*. This remarkable plant is at present ornamented with yellow flowers. The trees of the two sexes are different: the male is armed with large prickles, but the fruit of the female is preferred. They grow to such a height that horsemen may ride under them. In order to propagate them, you need but bury a leaf in the earth. These leaves serve not only to burn (particularly for killing the silk worm) but they are likewise roasted, soaked, and given to the hogs.

In the *Terra d'Otranto* and in Calabria, I

* I afterward saw a harrow in the kingdom of Naples.

have ſeen a particular kind of *ſolanum*, or nightſhade, which here is very common. The ſtem is tolerably high, has jagged prickly leaves, bears clear violet flowers with a yellow horn in the middle, and its fruit is a yellow berry of the ſize of a wild apple; which berry is full of kernels, that are uſed in medicine as a healthful diuretic, although the fruit itſelf is poiſonous. Our *ſolanum dulcamara*, which grows in marſhy places and ſprings with tender branches clinging to other ſtems, having a ſmaller darker coloured violet flower, and a rather arched thin yellow horn, from which a little ſhining red berry riſes, appears to me much more beautiful than this larger kind. It is found in both kingdoms; but more ſeldom than in the north of Germany, and in Denmark.

The numerous wild plants and flowers which, with us, require the utmoſt care, and then can ſcarcely be produced, gratify the eye in a delightful manner. The *ricinus*, from which the celebrated American oil is extracted, grows in great quantities beſide the oleander. The artichoke, the licorice, and the horned yellow poppy, all grow wild. The wholeſome quality of the licorice occaſions it to be a

branch

branch of trade. The ſeamen of this country chew the licorice, as the ſailors of the north do tobacco.

The praiſe which Horace has beſtowed upon Tarentum is peculiarly due to the ſouth of Italy, and Sicily; for the ſpring is long, and the winter mild. I here ſtill ſaw the white *ornithogalum*, with tender purple ſtripes, and the elder tree, in bloom; both of which I had ſeen blowing, on the 3d of February, at *Terracina*. Spring and ſummer reſide together in the fields, bud and bear on the ſame tree, and ſometimes extend their hoſpitable friendſhip to autumn. What a country is this for the botaniſt, who here may find unknown plants in flower and in ſeed at the ſame time! For theſe four months, I have continually ſeen the orange and citron tree, bearing their aromatic buds and their golden fruit.

On my firſt day's journey from Meſſina, I ſaw a grove of *agrumi;* the trees of which excelled in ſize all that I have met with in Italy, nay in Sorento, Taranto, and Reggio. The pomegranates were numberleſs, tall, and in bloom; and the beauty of their flowers is no where ſurpaſſed. The charms of theſe ſmiling

ſmiling regions are increaſed by the proſpect of the ſea, on one ſide, and of lofty mountains, on the other. Over theſe Ætna is occaſionally ſeen lordly to riſe. We diſcovered, on the right, the ſmall cape on which *Milazzo* ſtands. It was firſt built by the *Meſſenii*; and its ancient Greek name was *Mylæ*: Μυλαι.

In the evening, we took up our abode with a canon of *Pozzo di Gotto*; to whom we had a letter, and who received us kindly. He has a large garden, in the cultivation of which he delights.

On the 1ſt of June, we paſſed at one time through fruitful plantations, and at another along the ſandy ſhore of the ſea; which ſand itſelf produces numberleſs plants: particularly the yellow poppy, and the oleander. About noon, we aſcended the mountain *Tindaro*; leaving the monaſtery of *Santa Maria di Tindaro* on a height, by the ſea ſide. Here ſtood a Greek town, which was founded by the *Meſſenii* in the time of Dionyſius, the tyrant of Syracuſe. Dionyſius granted them land to till, and they called the town *Tyndaris*; after *Tyndarus*, an ancient King of Sparta; becauſe they maintained that, in very ancient times, Meſſina

Meſſina had appertained to *Lacedemonia* *. This town gained great reſpect. Cicero calls it a very noble city; and its people the allies and friends of the Romans.

On the left, we ſaw the mountain caſtle of the little town of *Tripi;* which is held to be the ancient Greek town of *Abacæon*, the Latin *Abacænum.* It lies on the river *Oliveri*, the bed of which is dry in ſummer. We paſſed it juſt before we aſcended the hill. It empties itſelf into the ſea, below the promontory of *Oliveri.* The Greeks called this river *Helicon.* Moſt of the rivers of Sicily are dry in ſummer, or reduced to very ſhallow ſtreams: but

* This account, from Strabo, contradicts the more worthy teſtimony of Thucydides; according to whom Meſſina was a colony from *Chalcis*, in *Eubœa*, was firſt called *Zancle*, and had the name of *Meſſena* given it by the tyrant Anaxeleus: becauſe he affirmed he was himſelf of *Meſſenian* origin. Tyndarus was King of Sparta, the huſband of Leda, and father of Caſtor and Pollux, Helena and Clytemneſtra. The fable ſays that Zeus viſited Leda in the form of a ſwan; and that Caſtor and Helen were produced from two eggs: Pollux and Clytemneſtra were the children of Tyndarus. The antiquity of this fable is great, and the tale is differently told: Pollux is now the ſon of Zeus, and now Caſtor. Homer calls Helen the daughter of Zeus; ſagaciouſly omitting the egg.

to travellers in winter they are very inconvenient, and often dangerous.

In the afternoon, we rode along the heights of the promontory of *Carava;* which, though ſteep, is cultivated for the vine on its heights, and corn below. Its point is a ſteep rock; againſt which the waves break and foam. We proceeded along rough paths to a row of rocks, on the topmoſt of which a tower is built. Nature here has formed for herſelf a wall of rock in the ſea; over which no path leads, and through which a hollow way has neceſſarily been cut. This place is called *Torre di Ciavoli:* or *Caſtello di Liago.* Here I met with as beautiful a valley as I have ever beheld. I might indeed ſay the moſt beautiful.

We went to a little fortreſs called *Brolo,* which belongs to the *Marcheſe Lungarini.* We had a letter to the ſteward of the caſtle, given us by a perſon of *Pozzo di Gotto,* whoſe name I do not know, who had ſeen nothing of us, and without our knowledge, at the requeſt of our *vetturino.*

This caſtle ſtands on a rock, beſide a gently curving bay of the ſea, that is formed by two promontories: the *Capo Carava,* and the wide

ſtretching

ſtretching *Capo d'Orlando.* The neighbouring valley extends toward the ſea, and is ſurrounded by ſeveral mountains in the form of a creſcent. Behind the leſſer heights mountains more lofty tower; the ſides and ſummits of which are ſhaded with foreſt trees above, and with fruit trees and vineyards below. Refreſhed by the mountain winds and the ſea breezes, the valley abounds with corn fields, gardens, vineyards, and groves. Here grew the largeſt poplars I ever met with; and there a cluſter of mulberry trees. Gardens ſeem to loſe themſelves in the ſoft and balmy lap of nature; which the ſcarceſt and moſt delightful plants and flowers of our greenhouſe, ſpontaneouſly ſcattered, render enchanting, and perfume the air; while they preſent the moſt rapturous variety to the eye, when, having contemplated the ſublime proſpects that the mountains and the ſea afford, it is in need of this repoſe. The man who, after the aſtoniſhment which objects ſo magical excite, does not ſeek this relief, and does not thus recruit the eye, enabling it again comprehenſively to riſe, but ill underſtands the ſovereignty of nature. Here the changeable objects

objects and forms ſupply all the relief, all the repoſe, that can be deſired.

The wine of this valley is generous. Many little towns are built on the tops of the hills. The proſpect toward the ſea is ſtill farther enlivened by the high Lipari iſlands. The eye loſes itſelf among the mountains, between which lie numerous valleys, and dark dales, that, from their diſtance and the deep mountain ſhadows, appear buried in night. The rivers *Naſo* and *San Angelo* flow on the two ſides of the valley toward the ſea.

This lovely vale is called *Piano di Brolo:* or the plain of Brolo. Excluſive of its other advantages and charms, it abounds in clear ſprings; which, with the ſea breeze that blows from the north, and the mountains that protect it from the noon-day heats, preſerve in it the coolneſs of eternal ſpring.

On the 2d of June, we heard the nightingale; among the blooming myrtles, and lofty oaks, of the mountain *Naſo*. We ſoon turned our backs on the promontory of Orlando*, and proceeded for ſome leagues, between

* Godofredo of Viterbo affirms that this promontory, and that of *Oliveri*, were called after the two famous knights

tween the ſea and the mountains, among valleys which all of them were ſimilar to the vale of *Brolo*. The heights are ſhaded with foreſts; and their ſides are clothed with vineyards, fruit-trees, and corn. The whole narrow plain is bedecked with blooming and fructiferous plants. The ſhining waves of the ſea broke upon the ſhore, and bold projecting cliffs added to its beauty.

The chain here belongs to the great mountains, which the Greeks called the mountains of *Here;* or of Juno *. It extends in length from the middle of the iſland to this place; and then enlarges in breadth till it unites with the *Pelorus*.

Diodorus Siculus praiſes this country for its mountain heights, cooling airs, freſh ſprings, and numerous trees.

knights of Charlemagne, Orlando and Oliver: Sicily being the laſt theatre of their ſupernatural feats. His Latin verſes are in the taſte of the middle ages; a taſte which has extended its vitiated uniformity over all literature, from Portugal to the Poles, from Italy to the kingdoms of the North.

Mons ibi ſtat magnus | qui dicitur eſſe Rolandus,
Alter Oliverius | ſimili ratione vocandus;
Hæc memoranda truces | conſtituere Duces.

* Cluv. Sic. Ant.

"Large

" Large oaks yield acorns that are twice the " uſual ſize. Many fruits, vines, and apples " innumerable, grow of themſelves. They " once fed a large army of the Carthaginians. " Here is a woody vale of godlike beauty, " conſecrated to the Nymphs, in which Daph- " nis, the ſon of Hermes and of a Nymph, " was born. He was called Daphnis from " the laurel tree. Educated by the Nymphs, " he here kept his flocks, in which he dearly " delighted, and was called the herdſman: " Βυκολος. Born with the gift of ſong, he " invented paſtoral poetry, and of a kind that " ſtill is delightful to Sicily. He was a plea- " ſant huntſman to *Artemis**; and gave her " delight with his flute, and ſhepherd's " ſongs †."

It is not known where this woody vale conſecrated to the Nymphs was: but what place could have been more delicately ſelected than the vale I have deſcribed, the *Piano di Brolo*,

* Diana.

† Diod. lib. iv. vol. i. p. 327. ed. Weſſel. In Greek, the laurel is called Daphne; which name it received after the metamorphoſis of Daphne, who fled from Apollo. Paſtoral poems were called *Bucolics*, from the ſhepherd Daphnis; becauſe *Bucolus* ſignifies a herdſman in Greek.

protected

protected as it is by the ſea and the mountains, abounding in ſprings, and bordered by two ſtreams? Where could the Goddeſs of the chace have found a more enticing reſidence than among theſe foreſt-clothed heights? What paſturage ſo welcome, to the youthful ſhepherd, as this valley; rich in wood and water, and clothed with the brighteſt verdure of ſpring? Where could the young ſon of Hermes feel inſpiration ſo fully as in this vale; where ſea, iſlands, rocks, mountains, groves, vineyards, fields, ſprings, rivers, and the mildeſt of climates combine to form a perfect paradiſe: a place which, as far as my knowledge extends, is the moſt beautiful that the world affords?

The love of this valley you ſee has led me back to it; and I now quit it reluctantly, though but deſcribing it in a letter: for the whole ſhore, as far as the mountain *Fratello*, which lies on this ſide *Santa Agatha*, is enchantingly delightful.

We here paſſed *San Marco;* which place, according to Cluverius, was the ancient *Agathyrnon:* or *Agathyrna:* but *Amico** places this ancient town in the vicinity of *Capo Orlando;*

* Lexic. Topographicum Siculum.

and is of opinion that *Aluntium*, which was likewiſe a very ancient town, ſtood here. The founding of *Agathyrna* was aſcribed to a ſon of Æolus, the ruler of the winds. Conſiderable remains of an aqueduct are here found.

Nearly facing *Santa Agatha*, we rode over the bed of the river *Roſinarino:* ſo called becauſe the roſemary grows on its banks, with the oleander and myrtle. A pair of turtle doves took flight juſt before me out of a myrtle in bloom, where probably they had their neſt.

We remained ſome hours in *Santa Agatha;* where about forty ſailors aſſembled round us, with whom we entered into converſation. The youths among them had the beautiful Grecian form. About ten of them placed themſelves in a circle, as if they would dance. The others continually endeavoured to puſh one of them out of the row; and if they ſucceeded all the reſt followed. They then exerciſed themſelves at leap frog, ſtanding in a row. If any one as he leaped touched the bonnet of him who ſtood up, he muſt then ſtand in his place. If any one fell, he was teaſed with perſevering mockery; yet did not loſe his good temper.

In the afternoon, we rode from the *Fratello* through leſs delightful countries, but ſtill among

among blooming and odoriferous herbage. A thiſtle, bearing a large high-yellow flower, grows in great quantities in Sicily; and is worthy of being received among the flowers of our gardens.

On a circular inlet of the ſea lies the little town of *Caronia*. This place, becauſe of its ſituation, was called by the Greeks Καλη ακτη; the beautiful ſhore; and it was here that the fugitive *Samii* were invited to ſettle, by the people of Meſſina. Of the treachery of theſe ſettlers I have before ſpoken. About forty years afterward, a town was founded here by Deucetius, the Sicilian; a man of noble birth, who ſucceeded in collecting the diſperſed tribes of the Siculi under his banners. He built ſeveral towns, and became formidable to the Greeks who were in the iſland; but was overcome, after a ſevere battle, by the people of Syracuſe. As his followers continued to forſake him, and he believed himſelf no longer in ſafety among thoſe that remained, he eſcaped from them by night, proceeded immediately to Syracuſe, ſtationed himſelf while it was dark beſide an altar which ſtood in a public place, and, as a fugitive, made an offer of himſelf and his country to the citizens. The chiefs

of Syracuſe aſſembled the peopſe; and ſome of the turbulent adviſed that Deucetius, the enemy who had done them ſo much miſchief, ſhould be puniſhed: but wiſer citizens replied, "It was not a queſtion of him or his "deſerts, but of how it became the Syracuſans "to act? It became them to reſpect the "ſtranger, and the unfortunate, and to leave "vengeance to the Gods." Accordingly, it was unanimouſly determined to ſpare him, and he was ſent to Corinth; where he was ordered to remain, and where he was publicly provided with all that was neceſſary for his maintenance *.

Under the pretext that he was commanded by the oracle of Apollo to people the beautiful coaſt with new inhabitants, Deucetius left Corinth, contrary to his word, and took ſhip with a ſwarm of adventurers. Many of thoſe that joined him were Siculi; and, among others, there was *Archonides*, Prince of the *Erbitæi:* or *Herbitæi.*

We arrived in the evening at a little town called *San Stefano;* where we were taken to an inn, the poverty of which terrified us, and its want of cleanlineſs ſtill more. The inns of

* Diod. lib. xii. vol. i. p. 474.

Italy

Italy have not rendered us ſpoiled children. Our vetturino, who is a good and an active fellow, procured a reception for us in the palace of an abſent Prince. The town is built on a verdant height, by the ſea ſide, and above it ſtands the palace.

On the 3d, we rode through the river Tuſa; leaving the ſmall town of the ſame name, and the caſtle built on higher ground, on one ſide. Here, or not far diſtant, ſtood the Greek town of *Alæſa:* or *Halæſa :* Ἀλαισα : Ἁλαισα: which was ſo called after the river *Alæſus:* or *Halæſus.* The town and the river are now both called Tuſa. The ancient town was founded by Archonides, Prince of the *Herbitæi;* after having, in the ſecond year of the 94th Olympiad, four hundred and three years before Chriſt, concluded a peace with Dionyſius: becauſe he wiſhed to free his town from the multitude of ſoldiers, and mixture of foreigners, that were drawn thither in expectation of war. Many likewiſe of the *Herbitæi* inſcribed themſelves as citizens of this colony. Archonides gave it the additional name of *Archonidium;* to diſtinguiſh it from other towns of Sicily, that were likewiſe called *Halæſa.*

In later times, when, by their maritime ſituation and the freedom which they enjoyed under the Romans, the people were become conſiderable, they denied their origin; being aſhamed of their little mother town: though the inhabitants of both the towns continued to intermarry, as late as the time of Diodorus.

A tradition is mentioned by this writer, according to which *Himilco*, the leader of the Carthaginians, after he had made peace with Dionyſius, founded the town. As the whole coaſt conſiſts of bays and promontories, and the narrow road leads continually from hill to hill, theſe hills and coaſts afford inceſſant variety.

A boatman told us, with animated pride of heart, that Sicily is called the verdant iſland. The lofty ſhores are generally green, and blooming, to the very edge of the ſea.

When we firſt landed on the iſland, we were amazed at the freſh foliage of the woods and hills: for the deep ſhades, which the mountains caſt over the vallies, had at a diſtance given it a gloomy appearance; and it ſeemed to ſuffer in compariſon with the ſmiling coaſt of Calabria. This heightened our plea-

ſure,

ſure, when, approaching, we beheld its groves, fields, vineyards, mountains, verdant valleys, and purling brooks.

Among the numerous trees, we ſaw plantations of the round-leaved aſh, and cork tree: the aſh was every where ſmall and ſlender. Whether none but thoſe trees in which inciſions are made in the bark for the ſap to exude, which thickens, becomes what is called manna, and conſtitutes a great article of the royal revenue of the King of Naples, yield this manna, or whether, as I ſuſpect, theſe horizontal inciſions, which are cut cloſe above each other, prevent the growth of the tree, I have not been able to diſcover. Neither can I tell whether the manna in Sicily belongs excluſively to the King. I think I have heard of a plantation which was the property of a Baron.

So luxuriant is the growth of numerous plants, that the rank ſcions of various kinds twine round the neighbouring tree, conceal its trunk, and cling about it ſo entirely, with their twigs and ſprouts, that leaves, flowers, and fruits, of different kinds, all mingle together in the moſt lovely and playful confuſion.

You imagine you ſee a *Chriſtbaum* *, which the creative care of a tender mother has hung with numerous fruits, and flowers. They moſt luxuriantly preſs upon each other where, under a rock, or among the branching roots of trees, a ſpring bubbles; and this luxuriance appears the greater becauſe the protracted ſeaſon of ſpring continues to produce buds, and bloom, on the very twigs that have for months been covered with fruit. Two mornings ago, in the garden of *San Stefano*, I ſaw an apple tree, which, while it bore tolerably large apples, was at the ſame time in bloom. The wide ſpreading myrtle, and the *lentiſcus*, were remarkable for receiving the ſcions and ſhoots of other plants among their branches; and, in addition to their native beauties, bedecking themſelves with foreign charms.

As we traverſed the winding ſhore, the proſpects toward the ſea, and the proſpects of the mountains, continually changing, ſeemed to vie with each other. At one moment, we could diſcover a ſmall dark blue, or emerald

* I cannot diſcover what tree this is, if it be not a tree or perhaps a pole decorated as the author deſcribes at Chriſtmas; probably after the cuſtom of Germany. T.

green,

green, opening of the ſea; and at another we overlooked the whole coaſt, from promontory to promontory, till the objects were loſt in the azure floods of the horizon.

The promontory of *Cefalu* appeared at a diſtance, like the *Capo d' Orlando*, to be a high iſland, and to increaſe the number of the Lipari iſles. It is formed of a ſteep rock. The Greeks, who ſuffered no reſemblance to eſcape them, called the town which they built upon it *Cephaloedis*, or *Cephaloedium:* becauſe of its reſemblance to a head: from the word *Cephale*, the head.

Cluverius remarks that the moſt ancient account of this town is found in Diodorus; according to whom Himilco, the Carthaginian, allied himſelf with its citizens in the firſt year of the 96th Olympiad, or 396 years before Chriſt. It is now the ſeat of an Archbiſhop; and, in the year 1760, its inhabitants were eſtimated by Amico at five thouſand four hundred *.

Cefalu is a place of trade. The fiſhery on its coaſt is very productive. Veſſels, even of three maſts, are now ſeen on the coaſt of Sicily,

* Lex. Top. Sic.

as

as deſcribed by Homer, drawn upon rollers on ſhore, and ſupported on each ſide by ſtakes.

Round the town and beſide the road, as we left it on the 4th, we ſaw many olive trees: nay the hills were almoſt covered with them. To the left, we had a view of the mountain *Madonia;* and before us was the high hill of *San Calogero.*

We rode through the river *Grande*, that divides the province of *Val Demone*, which we now firſt quitted, from the province *Val di Mazara.* On the bank of all the rivers of this coaſt, we ſaw tall ſtems of the oleander, with its charming red flowers.

Sicily is divided into three provinces: the names of which are *Val Demone*, *Val di Mazara*, and *Val di Noto.*

We found the country people already buſy with their wheat harveſt, and in thraſhing; which they perform after the manner of the ancients. Two oxen, horſes, or mules, are driven in a circular direction over the ſheaves, and tread the grain from the ear. The ſheaves are ſpread about a quarter of an ell in height: for, were they ſpread thinner, the grain would be cruſhed. By this means the ſtraw becomes ſoftened;

ſoftened; and, though it is of a much ſtronger texture than with us, yet from this kind of thraſhing it affords pleaſant fodder for cattle.

Among the wild plants, I ſaw the dark red *ſcabioſa* of our gardens, and a whole field of hyſſop growing. The day before I had ſeen, at *San Stefano*, wild cucumbers in bud, which were not eaten. The flax likewiſe grows wild in both kingdoms. Great quantities of a beautiful clear red pink *, of the ſame colour as our little wild pink †, but as large as the ſingle garden pink of this ſpecies, are now in flower.

About noon on the 4th, we arrived at *Termini*; and, as we left the town, we paſſed over the bridge of the river *Termini*. Cluverius ſuppoſes this to be the *Himera*; after which the ancient town of *Himera* was ſo called.

We were deſirous to diſcover the ſpot on which it ſtood. Cluverius places it on the left bank of the river Termini: but the ground conſiſts of ſteep rocky hills, on which it would have been difficult to build a large town like *Himera*; which Pindar calls the mighty. The ſpace ſeems inſufficient. Neither do I find

* *Feldnelke.* † *Grasnelke.*

any

any height on which the army of the Carthaginians encamped. I was led to believe for a moment that the town was built in the valley through which the river flows, and where the gardens of the people of Termini now are: but I was ſoon informed that this valley is ſubject to great inundations. I therefore think the opinion of Amico probable, who ſuppoſes the river *Grande* to be the *Himera*, and the ancient town to have been built on its banks.

This writer likewiſe ſupports the opinion of the ancients; which held the river *Salſo*, that empties itſelf into the ſea near *Alicata*, and that was likewiſe called the *Himera*, to have ariſen from the ſame ſource as the other Himera. This ſource, he adds, riſes out of the high mountains of *Madonia:* where it divides itſelf into two branches. The mountains of Madonia are very high: whence you may eaſily ſuppoſe the river to be divided into two branches. The Rhone, the Reuſs, and the Teſin, all riſe out of the Gothard, near each other: although the Rhone empties itſelf into the Mediterranean, the Reuſs through the Rhine into the North ſea, and the Teſin through the Po into the Adriatic. Thus,

like-

likewiſe, the Adda, which mingles with the Po, riſes in the glaciers of Bernini, in the country of the Griſons, near the Inn; which, running into the Danube, empties itſelf into the Black ſea; and, if I do not miſtake, a third ſtream was pointed out to me, ſeventeen years ago, which, flowing to the Rhine, is thus emptied into the North ſea.

The ancients appear to have been ſurpriſed that the waters of the ſouth Himera ſhould be ſalt, and thoſe of the north freſh: but there is nothing wonderful in it, if we may believe Amico; who tells us that there are ſalt ſprings, which run into the river Salſo near the ancient *Enna* *: the preſent *Caſtro Giovanni.*

According to Thucydides, *Himera* was peopled from *Zancle:* or Meſſina. The coloniſts, who followed Euclides, Simos, and Saco, were joined by others from Syracuſe; from which city many were driven by an oppoſite faction. The language of Himera was a mixture of the Chalcidenſian and Doric dialects. Meſſina was a colony from Chalcis, in Eubœa, and Syracuſe from Corinth: but the Corinthians were of Doris, and the Doric laws prevailed in Himera.

* Lex. Top. Sic.

The

The poet Steſichorus was a native of Himera: to whom we are indebted for the beautiful fable of the horſe, that loſt his freedom becauſe he called on man for help againſt the ſtag. It has been charmingly given by Horace, and La Fontaine: each in his peculiar way. It was invented by the Greek poet, to exhort his fellow citizens to concord; and to warn them againſt the ambitious deſigns of Phalaris, the tyrant of Agrigentum. According to the teſtimony of the ancients, Steſichorus was a great poet; and his daughter inherited his talents.

It was in the time of Phalaris that the people of Himera, being called on for aid by a party of the divided Rhegium, treacherouſly ſeized on this town.

Himera was ſubject to different tyrants. It was beſieged by the Carthaginians, when governed by Theron the tyrant of Agrigentum. As one of the moſt famous victories of Greece was gained under its walls, by which the fate and the freedom of Sicily were favourably decided, permit me to give you the account of it from Diodorus.

"The Carthaginians promiſed Xerxes that, "at the time when he ſhould invade Greece, "they

" they would ſeize on the Greek towns of Si-
" cily. Having armed themſelves for the war,
" they ſent Hamilcar, a very conſiderable
" leader, on this expedition *. He took ſhip-
" ping from Carthage with three hundred
" thouſand ſoldiers, two thouſand galleys of
" war, and above a thouſand tranſports; and
" loſt his cavalry and chariots by a ſtorm.
" Having reached the port of *Panormus* (the
" preſent Palermo) he gloried in having ended
" the war: fearful till then that the ſea would
" ſave the Sicilians.

" When he had reſted three days, to refreſh
" his army and repair his ſhips, he marched
" againſt Himera; while his fleet proceeded
" along the coaſt. He encamped before Hi-
" mera, and drew his ſhips on ſhore: where
" he ſurrounded them with a deep moat, and
" a wall of wood. He fortified his camp ex-
" actly facing the town, and extended it from
" the ſtation of his ſhips to the hills which
" overlook the town; of the weſtern ſide of
" which he was thus wholly poſſeſſed. He

* This Hamilcar muſt not be confounded with the great Hamilcar Barcas, the father of Hannibal. The Hamilcar here mentioned lived above two hundred years before Barcas.

" em-

" employed the flower of the army in repelling " the ſallies of the beſieged; many of whom " he killed, and threw Himera into great con- " ſternation.

" Theron, who ruled in Agrigentum, and " who defended Himera with a conſiderable " force, began to be alarmed; and ſent to Gelo, " his ſon-in-law at Syracuſe, for immediate " aid. Gelo had already armed; and, when " he heard that the courage of Himera was " ſunk, he marched with fifty thouſand foot " and five thouſand horſe to its relief. For " the ſecurity of his camp, he profited by the " ſituation of the country; and ſent all his " cavalry againſt the diſperſed foragers of the " foe, of whom he made more than ten thou- " ſand priſoners.

" The fame of Gelo revived the courage of " the beſieged; and he ſought a favourable " opportunity when he might ſurpriſe the Car- " thaginians, and deſtroy them by ſtratagem. " He learned that Hamilcar had ſet a day " apart for a ſolemn ſacrifice, to Neptune; and " that this ceremony was to be performed at " the ſtation of the ſhips. A horſeman like- " wiſe brought him a meſſenger, whom he had " taken priſoner, who bore letters from the

" *Selinuntii* to Hamilcar; in which they pro-
" miſed him that the cavalry he deſired ſhould
" be ſent, on the day he had appointed.

" This day was the ſame on which the Car-
" thaginian general was to perform his ſacri-
" fice; and Gelo ſent a body of horſe, which
" at break of day was to ride immediately in-
" to the ſtation of the ſhips of Hamilcar, as
" if they were the expected *Selinuntii:* com-
" manding them, as ſoon as they were within
" the wooden wall, to kill Hamilcar, and ſet
" fire to the ſhips. He likewiſe placed ſpies
" on a neighbouring hill, who were to give a
" token, as ſoon as the cavalry had entered the
" ſhip ſtation; and this token early in the
" morning he waited for, at the head of his
" army.

" The cavalry was admitted without ſuſ-
" picion, by the Carthaginian guards, and
" killed Hamilcar at the ſacrifice, and ſet fire
" to the fleet. The ſpies gave the ſignal, Gelo
" led his whole army againſt the enemy's
" camp in battle array, and the Carthaginians
" faced him boldly, and fought courageouſly.
" The trumpets of the Sicilians, and of the
" Carthaginians, and the war cry of both ar-
" mies, reſounded with emulative din. Vic-

" tory remained doubtful: but, when the flames " of the ſhips began to riſe, and meſſengers " announced that Hamilcar was ſlain, the in- " creaſing courage of the Syracuſans raged " anew againſt the diſpirited enemy, who took " to flight. Gelo commanded that all ſhould " be put to the ſword; and above a hundred " and fifty thouſand Carthaginians were ſlain. " The remainder withdrew to a favourable " ſituation, and eſcaped being ſeized by the " Sicilians: but the want of water obliged " them to ſurrender to the victors.

" The fame of Gelo reſounded after a vic- " tory ſo famous, from the ſubtlety of the " ſtratagem employed, the multitude of the " ſlain, and the great number of the priſoners. " He was equalled to Themiſtocles: nay ſome " maintained that the Greeks were indebted " to Gelo for the victory of *Salamis*; for that " the battle of Himera had raiſed the courage " of the Greeks, and had taught them not to " be terrified by the vaſt multitudes of a bar- " barous enemy. The vanquiſhed Xerxes " withdrew, with many of his thouſands. Of " the Carthaginians ſcarcely a meſſenger eſ- " caped.

" On the very day that Gelo gain[illegible]

" great battle, Leonidas, with his heroic band " of Spartans, fell at Thermopylæ: as if ſome " God had ordained that the moſt famous vic- " tory and the moſt glorious defeat of which " the Greeks could boaſt ſhould happen at " the ſame time *."

This battle was fought in the firſt year of the 75th Olympiad, 497 years before the birth of Chriſt.

Theron governed Himera in the perſon of his ſon, Thraſydæus, and ruled oppreſſively. The people ſent to Hiero, the firſt of the name, who, after the death of his brother Gelo, had ſucceeded him in power: promiſing him to ſurrender the town, and fight with him againſt Theron; who intended to make war on Hiero. But Hiero, being reconciled to Theron, betrayed to him the offers of the people of Himera: many of whom, after Theron had learned the truth, he put to death.

To repeople the town, Theron gave the right of citizenſhip to the Dorians, and others, whoſe inclinations led them thither. Thraſydæus ſucceeded his father, in the government

* Ὥσπερ ἐπιτηδες τε δαιμονιε περι τον ἀυτον καιρον ποιησαντος γενεθαι την τε καλλιστην νικην, και την ἐιδοξωτατην ἡτταν. Diod. lib. xi. vol. i. p. 420.

of Agrigentum and Himera ; which, with his life, he ſoon loſt *.

The people of Himera were only ſuffered to live fifty-eight years in concord and proſperity, with their new aſſociates, before they were again beſieged by the Carthaginians ; under a leader named Hannibal, who had taken and deſtroyed Selinus, ſeventy-one years after they had been delivered by Gelo. They defended themſelves with great courage; though many of the citizens had fled, with their wives and children, to Syracuſe.

A fleet of five-and-thirty galleys from Syracuſe, that was coming to their aid, appeared in ſight, juſt as a part of the walls fell before the battering rams of the Carthaginians ; and the town was taken. The Carthaginians maſſacred them without pity, till Hannibal commanded them to preſerve their priſoners. Himera was then plundered ; and Hannibal ſuffered the temples firſt to be ſtripped and then burned, after he had emptied them of the fugitives. Thus Himera was razed to the ground, in the 4th year of the ninety-ſecond Olympiad, 409 years before Chriſt, after it had been built 240 years. The

* Diod. p. 144.

women

women and children were diſperſed among the army: but the men impriſoned, to the number of three thouſand, were led by Hannibal to the place where Hamilcar, his grandfather, had been killed, and there they were ſcourged and put to death*.

Two years afterward, at a diſtance from the late Himera, the Carthaginians founded a new town; which, from the warm ſprings that riſe there, was called *Therma-hydata:* warm water: and *Therma-hydata-Himeræa:* warm Himerian water. In one of his orations againſt Verres, Cicero informs us that, after the deſtruction of Himera, the remaining citizens, meaning no doubt thoſe who had fled with their wives and children to Syracuſe, repaired to this new town. After the conqueſt of Carthage, when Scipio reſtored to different towns of Sicily the things of which they had been plundered by the Carthaginians, he likewiſe ſent back the Thermatanian ſtatues, which had formerly embelliſhed Himera; and, among others, the ſtatue of the poet Steſichorus.

The ſprings, from which the town took its name, are very hot; and were remarkable for their healthy effects. According to the fables

* Diod. lib. xiii. vol. i. p. 588.

of the ancients, the Nymphs, at the desire of Minerva, had given them their origin, for the benefit of Hercules.

The town, Termini, did not acquire the rank which Himera had maintained: yet it was early esteemed one of the considerable towns of Sicily. Amico states the number of its inhabitants to be eight thousand seven hundred.

On our present journey, toward the land, instead of woody mountains, we generally saw naked heights; between which and the sea corn, wine, and oil, are cultivated. The high budding branches of the aloe were unfolding their gaudy flowers. This plant is as common here as the *cactus opuntia;* both of which, in Sicily, serve to enclose and hedge the lands.

The promontory, *Monte Gerbino*, possesses picturesque beauties, which would be greater were it not so naked. The wine that is produced at its feet is generous; and, forbidden as it is to Mussulmen, it must have met with their approbation: for the name *Gerbin*, which the Saracens gave the promontory, in Arabic signifies a wine cask. It is likewise called the promontory of *Zaffarana.*

6 Before

Before we reached the promontory, we ſaw a multitude of fiſhing boats in the ſea, that were employed in the tunny fiſhery. We deſcended, rowed toward them, and went on board one of the boats, that we might view this ſpectacle. Numerous fiſhing boats, in four diviſions, had ſtationed themſelves round a large and ſtrong net. One large boat, in which there might be about a hundred fiſhermen, took in a whole ſide of the net. Theſe men were all employed at once in drawing it toward their ſide, and in gradually approaching the boats that were ſtationed oppoſite to them. No fiſh at firſt were heard in the yet deep nets: fear no doubt occaſioned them to be quiet: but by degrees their alarm increaſed, and they ſwam fearfully and rapidly round in a circle. Their terror was heightened by the fiſhermen; who ſhouted, to prevent any of them from ſpringing over the net and eſcaping between the boats. As they felt themſelves more impriſoned, their diſtreſs became more boiſterous. They ſprang, ſplaſhing up, filling the mouth of the net with white froth, and daſhing the water over the boats with a loud noiſe.

Among theſe tunny fiſh ſome were as large

as dolphins. The fiſhermen ſtruck the uppermoſt with long poles, that were armed with iron hooks; and, when they had drawn their booty near the boat, they ſtruck others with the ſhort pointed hooks, and thus drew them on board; ſo that the water was tinged with blood. At laſt, juſt as the net was drawn up, ſeveral of the fiſhermen jumped into the chamber of death; for ſo they call the net at this moment; and began to kill the remainder. They ſuppoſed they had taken about a hundred fiſh; the weight of which they eſtimated at a hundred *cantari* *.

The fiſhing being over, we were rowed toward the inn to which we had ſent our mules. A hot ſcirocco wind blew, the inn was wretched, and we were very glad at receiving an invitation, from a ſteward of the *Marcheſe Santa Croce*, to dine in the neighbouring palace of the abſent poſſeſſor. He gave us ſome of the country wine; of which that

* The *cantaro* contains 100 *rotoli*: the *rotolo* is, to a Hamburgh pound, as 6677 to 10,080; and, to the pound of Cologne, as 6677 to 9728. The weight of the largeſt tunny fiſh of the preſent draught was ſuppoſed to be 3 *cantari*: but, according to the fiſhermen's account, a tunny fiſh will frequently weigh from 6 to 7 *cantari*.

which

which had been kept a year was good, but that which was nine years old was excellent. He likewiſe ſupplied us with beds, and cool chambers; where we repoſed during the heat of the day.

In moſt of the palaces of the grandees in Naples and Sicily, there are large chambers that are unfurniſhed. Theſe great buildings are left empty, and deſolate, becauſe they are ſeldom inhabited by their owners. Many a *Barone* dies without having viſited his eſtate. This palace was beautiful, and handſomely furniſhed: for it was frequently viſited by the poſſeſſor.

Adjoining the promontory of *Monte Gerbino*, on the eaſtern ſide of the hill *Alfano*, the fortreſs of *Solanto* ſtands. Here once ſtood the ancient town of *Solus:* or *Solentum:* Σολοεις, Σολους. It was firſt a principal colony of the Phœnicians; and afterward of the Carthaginians. It is mentioned by Hecatæus; a writer of the time of Darius, the ſon of Hyſtaſpes*. About thirty years ago, a Sicilian nobleman, named *Lancelotto Caſtello*, deſcribed the remains of *Solus;* and about two hundred years before him Fazello did the ſame.

* Cluv. Sic. Ant.

A Ger-

A German mile on this ſide Palermo, or thereabout, we came to the palace of Prince Palagonia; ſo celebrated for its fantaſtic decorations*. Its former poſſeſſor is dead; and his ſucceſſor, the preſent owner, was his half brother and ſon-in-law. Though many of the monſters are removed, yet the whole of the flat roof and the encloſed court are diſfigured by odious abſurdities. In the language of Horace, they may be called the dreams of the ſick; and the dreams of the ſick cut in ſtone, you may well ſuppoſe, are very diſguſting: eſpecially as the imagination of the inventor was as barren as his taſte was depraved. As he was denied the merit of variety in unity, by which the beautiful is characterized, he was deſirous to ſatiate his inordinate caprice by the number of its objects. His wretched ideas have been executed by artiſts worthy of their employer.

Within the walls there are only ſome chambers remaining furniſhed as they were in the time of the late prince. It grieved me to ſee the houſe inhabited, eſpecially by children; for it may well be ſuppoſed that an early familiarity with ſuch nauſeous abortions, of a

* See Brydone's Tour: vol. ii. letter 22. T.

limited

limited and lunatic brain, muſt produce an injurious effect on the tender organs of childhood.

The ſituation of the palace and its garden is very gloomy; as likewiſe are the ſituations of ſeveral palaces and gardens that we ſaw on the road. The gardens did not become pleaſant till we approached Palermo.

We had a broad high road from Termini to this principal city of the iſland; but the duſt and heat were diſagreeable. We had a ſtrong wind; but it came loaded with the hot vapours of Africa.

LETTER LXXXVII.

Palermo, 9th June 1792.

PALERMO is built on a cape that unites the weſtward mountains with the promontory of Pelegrino; which extends itſelf and, with the promontory of Zaffarana toward the eaſt, forms a bay. It is remarkable that moſt of the promontories of this north coaſt

of

of Sicily conſiſt of hills, that are connected with the mountains by inferior capes; and that they appear at a diſtance as detached mountains; and frequently like thoſe of the Lipari iſles, that riſe out of the ſea.

The founders of the ancient town are uncertain. Panormus, the former name of Palermo, ſignifies in the Greek a great haven; and, as the haven of this place is large and excellent, there can be little doubt but that it was thus named by the Greeks*: though it has been differently interpreted, and it is uncertain whether the Greeks, and of what tribe, were its firſt inhabitants. I conjecture that the Phocenſes, who, as Thucydides tells us, after having beſieged and taken Troy with the other Greeks, were firſt driven by a ſtorm on the coaſt of Africa and afterward ſailed over to Sicily, either founded this town or, after having expelled the ancient inhabitants, gave it the name it bore†.

* Diodorus ſays of Pyrrhus: Ἐνθυς ἦκεν ἐπι την τῶν Πανορμιτων πολιν, ἐχουσαν λιμενα καλλιστον τῶν κατα την Σικελιαν, ἀφ' ἧς και την πολιν συμβεβηκε τετευχεναι ταυτης της προσηγοριας.

Pyrrhus landed at the city of the Panormites, which had the beſt haven of all the towns of Sicily; whence it derived its name. Lib. xxii. vol. ii. p. 498, ed. Weſſel.

† Thuc. lib. vi. p. 378.

Thu-

Thucydides adds—" After many of the " Greek ſhips had arrived, the Phœnicians " forſook moſt of their places ; and ſettled in " *Motya*, *Solus*, and *Panormus*, near to the *Ely-* " *mi* ; depending on their alliance with theſe " people, and their vicinity to the Carthagi- " nians."

It was between four and five hundred years after the deſtruction of Troy that the firſt Greek colonies came to Sicily ; and the Phœnicians gave place to them as their numbers rendered them powerful. They might at that time have been ſome centuries in poſſeſſion of Solus, and Panormus ; and have taken them from the Phocenſes. It was a hundred and ſixty years after the founding of Naxus, the firſt of the Greek colonies, and in the fiftieth Olympiad, before Motya was inhabited by the Greeks of Cnidos, from Caria*. But it was ſoon afterward taken poſſeſſion of by the Aſiatic, and African, or Carthaginian, Phœnicians

* We ſhould remember that, when the ancients ſpeak of the Greek colonies in Sicily, they always mean thoſe who, in conſequence of the anſwer given by the oracle of Apollo, ſettled in Naxus, and Syracuſe ; and not of the Greeks of a much earlier age.

in

in common. We learn, from the orations of Cicero againſt Verres, that Panormus enjoyed great privileges under the Romans. In a letter from this city to the Emperor Adrian, it calls itſelf a republic; and though this word does not always ſignify complete independance, for Tacitus likewiſe calls Neapolis a republic, ſtill it denotes extraordinary privileges. Under the Arabs, this place was the reſidence of the *Emir Chbir*: that is the chief governor of the Sultan of Egypt. The other *Emirs*, or Governors, were at all times ſubject to the *Emir Chbir*. The Arabs called this city *Balirmu*.

Palermo is regularly built. It is divided into four nearly equal parts by two principal ſtreets, that croſs each other, that are equal in their breadth, and that would be beautiful, if the houſes were better built.

According to an excellent cuſtom of Italy and Sicily, each window has its balcony, with an iron railing. In warm climates, it is not merely agreeable, it is abſolutely neceſſary, to enjoy the cool of the evening. But theſe balconies do not give the ſtreets a good appearance: eſpecially when, as is generally the caſe, they are ſloped without taſte. In long

ſtreets,

ſtreets, which at the farther end appear narrow, you ſeem as if you were ſhut up in an iron cage.

The city contains above a hundred thouſand inhabitants. Thirty years ago, the people were numbered at one hundred and two thouſand one hundred and ſix * ; and, ſince then, the population has increaſed: but the uſual eſtimate of Palermo, which ſtates the population at a hundred and ſixty thouſand, is exaggerated.

Palermo is the ſeat of the viceroy, of the archbiſhop, who is primate of the kingdom and chief of the *Braccio Eccleſiaſtico*, or ſpiritual court, and of the *Giudice della Monarchia;* which is the title of a principal eccleſiaſtic, who is the vice legate of the Pope, and nominated by the King. Roger the Second Count of Sicily, about the end of the eleventh century, was appointed by Pope Urban the Second as the Papal legate in Sicily. When in the year 1129 he aſſumed the title of King, he continued in this ſpiritual office; and his ſucceſſors followed his example. It was the character of the times for Kings to conſider themſelves as honoured by being legates

* Amico, Lex. Top. Sic.

of

of the Pope; and the Popes were flattered by ſuch officers. In later times the Popes would willingly have deprived them of this honour: but the Kings of Sicily maintained it, in diminution of the power of the Pope, whoſe office they ſo well know how to exerciſe as to leave his Holineſs but little influence.

The ſcirocco is felt in no town in Italy ſo intenſely as here. Theſe hot guſts from the ſandy deſerts of Africa, in paſſing the ſea, loſe much of their power, before they reach the ſouthern parts of Sicily: but they collect new ſtrength in croſſing the iſland. About midday a cooling ſea breeze ſprings up: for which reaſon the morning in Palermo is hotter than the noon.

The heats felt are increaſed by the hill *Pellegrino*; which ſtops the burning vapours of the ſcirocco in their courſe.

This mountain by the Greeks was called *Ercta*: ἡ Ερκτη: likewiſe ἡ Ἐιρκτη: and from it Hamilcar Barcas, the father of Hannibal, oppoſed the Romans nearly three years, during the firſt Punic war; although no town in Sicily took part with the Carthaginians.

The proſpect toward the ſea, the *Pellegrino*, and the verdant plain of *Sfera di Cavalli*, which

which ſeparates the promontory from the mountains and on the north-eaſt ſide of which is the promontory of *Zaffarana*, adds charms to the city. Many gardens, which appear to be better laid out than thoſe at a diſtance from Palermo, afford agreeable and cooling ſhades; and particularly the large gardens on the eaſtern ſide of a row of country houſes, on the way to Termini, which are called *La Bagaria*. They cheer the eye; which, bold as the contour of the mountainous ſhore is, does not willingly repoſe on thoſe naked heights.

From the terrace of an Arabian palace, which was built in the ninth century, the whole city, the ſea, the promontory, and *La Bagaria*, are overlooked. This palace is called *Ziza;* after *Aaziza*, daughter of an *Emir* of Palermo; to whom the other *Emirs* were ſubject. The daughter, *Aaziza*, married another *Emir;* and the letter in which he demanded her in marriage, and the anſwer returned by the father are ſtill extant. Aaziza lived in the ninth century; and the palace was repaired during the laſt.

Another palace, called *Cubba*, is likewiſe of the Saracen times; and now ſerves as a gar-

riſon for cavalry *. The æra of the government of the Arabs, and of their ſucceſſors the Normans, is ſhortly to be elucidated. Six Italian miles from the city, in the library of the monaſtery of *San Martino*, an unknown treaſure of the hiſtory of this country lay; till, about eight years ago, the library was viſited by an ambaſſador from Morocco: who, taking up a manuſcript, diſcovered it to be the hiſtory of the government of the Arabs. The Abbate Vella, a Malteſe, who reſides here and who being learned in the Arabic accompanied the ambaſſador, mentioned this diſcovery; and, on command, publiſhed the manuſcript, with an Italian tranſlation †. There

* *Geſchichte der Araber in Sicilien*, iii. th. ſ. 9. 10. 11.

† This work is likewiſe now publiſhed in German; under the title of *Geſchichte der Araber in Sicilien, und Siciliens unter der herrſchaft der Araber: in gleichzeitigen urkunden von dieſem volke ſelbſt: aus dem Italiäniſchen, mit anmerkungen und zuſätzen: von Philipp Willhelm Gotlieb Hausleutner. In vier bänden.* That is: A hiſtory of the Arabs in Sicily, and of Sicily under the government of the Arabs; from contemporary documents of the people themſelves: tranſlated from the Italian, with additions and remarks: in four volumes. By Philip Wil. Got. Hausleutner.

is

is likewiſe the laſt volume of another manuſcript, publiſhed by him; which contains the letters of information ſent by an Arabian ambaſſador, during the Norman period, with the anſwers of the Caliphs of Egypt.

Theſe intereſting documents will indubitably afford you pleaſure. What then will be your feelings, when I inform you that this Abbate Vella poſſeſſes an Arabic tranſlation of ſeventeen of the loſt books of Livy? the books ſixty to ſeventy-ſix incluſive; in the laſt of which only there are ſome imperfections!

But how came he poſſeſſed of this manuſcript? The ſtory is thus told. Favray, a French painter, who was a *Cavaliere Servente* of the order of Malta, through the medium of the French ambaſſador, obtained permiſſion to meaſure and take a plan of the moſque of Selim at Conſtantinople; which was formerly the church of Saint Sophia. While employed in this work, as he ſtepped upon a cornice, he ſet his foot on a roll, looked at it, ſaw it was a manuſcript, and put it in his pocket.

When he returned to Malta, he preſented it to the then Grand Maſter: who gave it to the Abbate with theſe words—"Accept this

book, it will one day render you famous." Vella was aſtoniſhed when he diſcovered what were the contents of the work. A diſorder on the lungs occaſioned him to make a voyage to Sicily; and unwillingly, at the command of the Grand Maſter who had been applied to by the King, he undertook the tranſlation of the two Arabic hiſtorical works, which has hitherto prevented him from tranſlating Livy.

Several perſons believe the tale of finding Livy to be a romance; and accuſe Vella of having purloined a manuſcript from the library of a monaſtery in Girgenti. They ſay that, when he was employed in tranſlating his Arabic hiſtory, the monks in Girgenti were commanded to furniſh him with all the Arabic manuſcripts of their library. Among theſe, he diſcovered a large fragment of an Arabic tranſlation of Livy, and ſecured it for himſelf: adding that the ſtory of Favray as well as of the Grand Maſter, who are both dead, is all invention. They likewiſe allege that this manuſcript was bound in the manner that different other manuſcripts of theſe times, to be met with in Sicily, are bound. It is known too, that the learned Arabs of all ages were better inſtructed in Greek than in Roman literature;

rature; and that philoſophy, natural hiſtory, and phyſic, were highly eſteemed by them: but that they held ancient hiſtory in little eſtimation, their own excepted.

Be that as it will, Vella gives hopes that the ſixtieth book will ſoon appear in an Italian tranſlation: but that he will not publiſh the whole of the manuſcript, till he has obtained a ſufficient number of ſubſcribers to ſecure him from loſs.

I have ſeen the manuſcript, but, as I do not underſtand even the Arabic character, I can form no judgment concerning its authenticity. I adviſed him to publiſh the Italian tranſlation, and then to ſell the Arabic manuſcript to ſome Prince, or public library: but he is undetermined.

Livy muſt have ſuffered much by any tranſlation; and how much more by being retranſlated! No writer poſſeſſed the grand talent of preſerving a noble and elevated ſtyle, and, as the ſubject varied, to vary his colouring without departing from his dignity, in a higher degree than Livy. Ever the ſame, yet ever different, he appears as if inſpired by the very ſpirit of the times and the events he has to record. He has no peculiarity of manner: he

riſes above ſuch petty conſtraint; and, like Raphael, poſſeſſes this grand peculiarity that he has no manner.

Far as the tranſlation which this, or any other work after the Arabic, muſt be below the original Latin, yet, if the manuſcript have full juſtice done it, it will be of great value. The events of a nation, whoſe deſtiny had ſo powerful an influence over the whole globe, arranged by Livy, muſt deſerve our ſerious attention. Many a fine Roman feature, it is true, muſt be concealed under the double drapery firſt of an Arabic and then of a modern dreſs: but, in deſpite of theſe foreign folds, the noble ſtep, and the free motions, will be diſtinguiſhable, as the delighted reader is led from event to event, and confidentially, like friend converſing with friend, is conducted over the wrecks of ancient days.

A building, which was formerly a monaſtery of the Jeſuits, is deſtined for the uſe of the Academy; and the library, which has only been eight years in collecting, already conſiſts of about forty thouſand volumes. Father Sterzinger, the librarian, a German, is a man of underſtanding, worth, and literature. The library is daily open for ſome hours to the public;

public; and we found many young people making extracts. Father Eliseo, from Naples, is a man of merit, as a teacher of experimental philosophy. Father Piazza, from the Veltelin or Valteline, an Italian province of the Grisons, the teacher of astronomy, is the friend and correspondent of Herschel and De Lalande *. Aided by the celebrated mechanic and astronomer Ramsden, of London, he has discovered an instrument which has all possible advantages for observing the stars by day, as well as by night. He is publishing a description, with engravings, of this excellent instrument. My entire ignorance of astronomy, which I contemplate at an awful distance, disables me from communicating any idea of this instrument.

The anatomical theatre, and the cabinet of

* This famous astronomer wrote to father Piazza, *Nous venons de déclarer la guerre; ce qui n'empêchera ni nos observations ni nos calculs.* "We have just declared war; but this will neither impede our observations nor our calculations."

On the day that the people stormed and destroyed the Bastile, De Lalande was at work from eight in the morning to three in the afternoon, without intermission; undisturbed by the tumult which, like an electric shock, was felt through the whole kingdom. This trait will remind you of Archimedes—"Take care of my circle!"

natural hiſtory, I conſider as being yet in their infancy: though the latter is remarkable for its collection of fiſhes, which are ſo excellently preſerved as to ſeem alive.

Signor Carelli, the ſecretary of the Viceroy, poſſeſſes an excellent collection of ancient coins: among which there are ſeveral that have hitherto been unknown. Thoſe of the Greek towns in Sicily, and among the reſt of Syracuſe, are remarkable for their beauty. There is one of Syracuſe, which has never before been diſcovered, having on one ſide the figure of Apollo, and on the other of Diana, of excellent workmanſhip.

There are likewiſe Punic coins in this collection; which probably were ſtamped either in this city, in *Solus* or in *Motya*. They contain on one ſide the Carthaginian horſe-head.

Among thoſe of *Panormus*, there are ſome that have Greek inſcriptions; which probably may be of the period between the end of the firſt Punic war and the reign of Auguſtus. This Emperor ſent a Roman colony here; and I doubt whether, after that epocha, great as the remaining privileges of the city were, it was ſuffered to coin its own money.

Several coins are found the inſcriptions of which

which are half Greek, and half Punic; and theſe were probably coined ſoon after the expulſion of the Carthaginians, when the Greek language began to prevail on this ſide of Sicily.

A ſimilar accident has happened to the Sicilian coins of the Swabian æra: on which the inſcription upon one ſide is Arabic, and upon the other Greek. The Norman princes, who immediately ſucceeded to the Saracens, permitted Arabic inſcriptions on all coins.

It is remarkable that all the coins of the elder Dionyſius have Punic inſcriptions.

Some miles from the city, the little town of *Montereale*, which was formerly the ſeat of an Archbiſhop, is built upon a hill. After the death of the laſt Archbiſhop, the King joined this ſee with that of Palermo; and, greatly reducing the revenue, applied the remainder to the royal treaſury. The preceding Archbiſhop made a fine high road between the two towns; which is ornamented with fountains, and ſtatues.

The cathedral of Montereale is an old Gothic building; the altar of which, at the expence of the ſame Archbiſhop, Teſta, is richly

richly embelliſhed with ſilver ſtatues, and ſilver medallions of emboſſed work.

The road enjoys a very pleaſant proſpect of the gardens among the hills, which form a circular valley, and of the ſea.

A large botanical garden has been planted, ſome years, on the eaſt ſide of Palermo; in which I became acquainted with the *papyrus*. The *Muſa Paradiſiaca* blooms and bears fruit; and its flowers reſemble thoſe which we call the great imperial crown. I here for the firſt time ſaw ſeveral beautiful plants.

A ſtructure is now building, under the inſpection of the architect Du Fournay, which is deſigned for a public ſchool of botany. It is almoſt finiſhed; and is, in many of its parts, an imitation of the ancient Greek architecture in Sicily. Whether this high ſtyle be proper for a ſmall building, whether the pillars and the cupola are in proportion, and whether pilaſters which like pillars are tapered toward the extremity produce a good effect, are doubts which my want of knowledge will not permit me to decide upon.

Near this is another public garden called the Flora; where there are ſhady walks and

charming ſhrubs, with a proſpect toward the ſea. It embelliſhes the *Corſo*; which is held between this garden and the ſea. Here I firſt ſaw the *Patientia*; a beautiful tall tree, which ſeems to me greatly to reſemble the aſh *.

On the ſpot where now this pleaſant garden flouriſhes, formerly, the poor wretches that were condemned by the Inquiſition were executed.

The reigning King has delivered Sicily from this horrible tribunal. It is to the honour of the kingdom of Naples that the people, though very religious, have ardently and obſtinately reſiſted the introduction of that court.

Under the word *Palermo*, in the *Encyclopédie*, we read the following account of this great city.

PALERME, ville détruite *en Sicile, dans le val de Mazzara, avec un archevêché et un* petit port. *Palerme*, avant ſa déſtruction *par un tremblement de terre, diſputoit à Meſſine le rang de capitale. Elle* étoit *ſituée ſur la côte ſeptentrionale* †.

I think

* *Melia Azedarach foliis bipinnatis.*

† PALERMO. A *deſtroyed city* of Sicily, in the valley of Mazzara; with an archbiſhoprick, and a *ſmall* haven.

Palermo,

I think I may be permitted to throw a little light on this *ſagacious* paſſage.

Palermo was ſcarcely ever a larger city than it is at preſent: for its inhabitants are at leaſt a hundred, and probably a hundred and twenty, thouſand in number.

Its haven, the capaciouſneſs of which the Greek word *Panormus* denoted, has been rendered a *little* haven by no earthquake; and this *fearful* earthquake, which *deſtroyed* the town, can be no other than that which happened in 1726; when a few houſes fell.

Palermo maintains the rank of the principal city: although Meſſina has at all times contended, and will contend for this rank; and has for centuries been ſtyled by the King, in his official documents, *Meſſina, Capo del Regno*; or capital of the kingdom.

Palermo is not only, without doubt, the largeſt city in Sicily but is one of the largeſt and moſt beautiful cities of Europe: although the *Encyclopédie* denies its exiſtence.

Our friends, the Meſſieurs Von Droſt, from

Palermo, *before its deſtruction* by an earthquake, diſputed the rank of capital with Meſſina. It *was* ſituated on the north coaſt.

Ruins of a Grecian Temple in Egesta or Segesta.

A View in Trapani and of the Monte di Trapani the ancient Eryx

Letter LXXVIII

Münſter, with whom we became acquainted at Naples, are arrived in the packet boat that regularly paſſes between Naples and Palermo; and will contribute to enliven our delightful journey through Sicily.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

Trapani, 12th June 1792.

LEAVING Palermo two days ago, our road led us, contrary to our expectation, through Montereale; and we now regret that, inſtead of viſiting this place, we did not take a trip to *Monte Pellegrino:* or to the monaſtery of *San Martino.*

The ſame Archbiſhop Teſta, at whoſe expence the magnificent high road from Montereale to Palermo was made, has continued that road, though at leſs coſt, and made it paſſable for carriages as far as *Sala di Partenico:* which is eighteen Italian miles from Palermo.

Leaving the verdant Montereale, we aſcended among the naked heights till the proſpect

pect at once became beautiful. We beheld a ſpacious valley before us, with the bay of Caſtelamare; on the north-eaſt ſide of which a pictureſque promontory projects: while the bay is formed by two inferior capes, that extend like the prongs of a fork into the ſea.

The fertility of the valley juſtifies all that has been related of Sicily by ancient writers. Waving corn, vineyards, and fig and olive trees, embelliſh theſe fortunate fields: where the eye is ſtill more enraptured by the blooming orange and citron. The lands are hedged round with the aloe, and the Indian fig.

Above this bay, on the Palermo ſide, is the town of *Hycara*, τα Υκκαρα, the birth place of Lais, too celebrated for her beauty and its abuſe. When a child, ſhe was publicly ſold among other priſoners by the Athenians; when, led by Nicias, they had conquered this little place, and brought the inhabitants to Athens. The town, which now ſtands where *Hyccara* was built, is called *Carini*.

Sala di Partenico, a well built little place, by its name points out the traces of the ſmall Greek town called *Parthenicon*. It is ſituated at the entrance of a charming valley.

In the evening, we ſaw the diſtant iſland of

of Uſtica; which for centuries, from the fear of African pirates, was only inhabited by wild goats. The King cauſed a citadel to be built here, in the year 1765, furniſhed it with a garriſon, and ſent a colony to Uſtica; which flouriſhes, although the iſland is in want of freſh water: the water they have being kept in ciſterns. This muſt not be confounded with the leſs and now nameleſs iſland which, after a terrible occurrence, the ancients called *Oſteodes:* the place of bones: and to which the Carthaginians, under a warlike pretext, ſent a large army of mercenaries, to whom they were in arrears for pay, and here ſuffered them to periſh of hunger.

We reached Alcamo in the evening; a well built town, that contains above eight thouſand inhabitants. It was built in the year 828, on the fruitful hill *Bonifacio*, by the Saracen *Adalcamo;* or *Halcamo;* who came from Africa: but its ſite was removed by the Emperor, Frederick the Second, to the plain in which it now ſtands.

Alcamo boaſts of having produced famous men; and, among others, *Ciullo del Camo:* who is generally called *Vincentio di Alcamo.* He was the contemporary of Frederick the Second;

Second; and is ſuppoſed, by ſome, to be the firſt who wrote poetry in the Italian language: at leaſt, he was one of the firſt Italian poets. As it was Sunday, we were not ſurpriſed to ſee a great part of the inhabitants tumultuouſly crowding the ſtreets: for this is a cuſtom through all Italy. They begin on the Saturday evening, after the labour of the week is over, to collect in the market places, and ſtreets. He, who ſhould be unacquainted with their manners, would imagine that ſome extraordinary event or inſurrection had cauſed them to aſſemble: for they uſually ſpeak all together, with loud voices, rapid articulation, and animated geſtures. In the midſt of their violent contentions, you every moment expect they will ſeize each other by the throat, and are agreeably ſurpriſed to hear them end in a loud laugh.

Thus it was at Alcamo, where the ſtreets ſeemed to be in an uproar till after midnight, when ſinging and muſic began: yet, as early as three in the morning, the people were going about, crying aloud the bread and meat, which they ſold to the workmen that were preparing for their labour in the fields. The Sicilians, like the Italians, need but little ſleep; and

and willingly part with that little for any diverſion. Hence the cuſtom of ſerenading ever has and ever will prevail. Horace, in the ninth ode of his firſt book, ſpeaks of the ſerenades of his days. He has been hitherto miſinterpreted, by ſome commentators; and, although the manners of the ſouth of Italy and of Sicily might have pointed out what the poet intended to deſcribe, yet, I ſhould probably ſtill have miſunderſtood him, if a lucky accident had not informed me of the true meaning of the verſe.

A volume of the *Gazette Litteraire de l'Europe* fell into my hands at Naples; a journal which gave extracts from the commentator, Abbate Galiani; a writer who died ſome years ago at Naples, a man of underſtanding, and famous for his numerous works*. I do not believe that the whole of his commentary has yet been made public.

The ode of which I am ſpeaking begins

Vides ut alta ſtet nive candidum
Soracte——

HOR. l. i. od. 9.

* See different numbers of the above journal, for the year 1765.

Behold Soracte's airy height.

FRANCIS.

The verſes

Leneſque ſub noctem ſuſurri
Compoſita repetantur hora—

An aſſignation ſweetly made,
With gentle whiſpers in the dark—

FRANCIS.

have generally been underſtood as if the poet ſpoke of ſocial friends, who met together in the evening. But why ſhould they ſpeak in whiſpers? And why at an appointed hour? Is not the unexpected viſit of a friend often the moſt pleaſant?

Others came nearer to the meaning, without attaining it. They ſuppoſed the poet had ſpoken of two lovers converſing together. Let us hear our acute Neapolitan.

"Theſe *Lenes Suſurri*," ſays Galiani, "are "not the ſoft whiſpers of two lovers: they "are ſerenades. To elucidate my meaning, "it will be neceſſary for me to enlarge a little "on the manners of the ancient Romans: "manners which are ſtill preſerved, in the "lower parts of Italy, Spain, and the Eaſt. "Love, that ever powerful, but ever hypo-"critical paſſion, ſuffers itſelf to be fettered,

" and conſtrained, as long as it can endure:
" but, when it gathers ſufficient ſtrength, it
" breaks its chains and recovers its freedom.
" In Spain and Italy, where the climate will
" permit, the lover declares his paſſion in the
" ſtreet, and at the windows. In France and
" Germany, where the winds are more rude,
" love is obliged to open the door, and tell his
" tale by the fire ſide. In the country of Ho-
" race, the door was impaſſable, and the houſe
" conſidered as ſacred: particularly if it con-
" tained a young maiden that was marriage-
" able.

" But let us not deceive ourſelves: neither
" Arab nor Turk firſt introduced the jealouſy
" of the ſeraglio, to Greece and Aſia. The
" cuſtom is much older: it is attached to the
" ſoil: it ſtill exiſts in Italy; or rather did
" exiſt, till, at the end of the laſt century,
" French manners prevailed over all Italy. In
" the ſouth however this ancient cuſtom ſtill
" remains in full force*. The doors there are
" yet

* This extreme reſtraint originates in a miſtruſt of women, and the ill opinion which prevails of the ſex. A prudent and chaſte education honours and ennobles the fair: who are moſt injurioufly debaſed by oriental con-

" yet impaſſable to lovers. Watched, as they " are in Turkey, the girls ſpend a great part " of their time at the window, eſpecially by " night, liſtening to the ſongs which the lov- " ers ſing in a low voice, that they may not " diſturb the neighbourhood. The maiden " conceals the light of her chamber; and her " lover only knows that ſhe is preſent by her " ſoft whiſpers, which he hears from the bal- " cony. I have a thouſand times witneſſed the " ſcenes which Horace deſcribes. On a ſud- " den the girl is ſilent, and returns no more " anſwers to the diſcourſe of her lover; who, " being in the dark, knows not whether ſhe " ſtill liſtens or is gone. He ſpeaks again, " again waits to hear, and at laſt receiving no " reply is perſuaded that his beloved is re- " tired to reſt; or that, frightened by a noiſe " in her mother's chamber, ſhe has thrown

finement. The German and Engliſh women are the moſt virtuous of their ſex. No where are unmarried women ſo innocent; or the married ſo happy. No where are wives ſo honoured, and ſo full of worth, as among the Germans, and the Engliſh. Neither have our women that cold reſerve which is frequently the lot of an Engliſhwoman. What Galiani ſays of the hypocriſy of love is in part explained by the text, and in part muſt be underſtood only of this paſſion in the South.

" herſelf

" herſelf under the bed clothes and counter-
" feited ſleep.

" Theſe accidents of fright are ſo common
" that the lover is not aſtoniſhed if he be ſud-
" denly left in the middle of his nightly col-
" loquy. Dejected, he puts his mandoline in
" its caſe, and is about to be gone; when, in
" an inſtant, his young miſtreſs, who had re-
" tired to a corner of her chamber, gives a loud
" laugh to inform him that ſhe ſtill liſtens,
" and that ſhe had only been ſportively play-
" ing him a trick. Overjoyed, enraptured, he
" returns and again begins his amorous end-
" leſs tale.

" This agrees with the deſcription of Ho-
" race:

Nunc et latentis proditor intimo
Gratus puellæ riſus ab angulo,
Pignuſque dereptum lacertis
Aut digito male pertinaci.

The laugh that from the corner flies,
The ſportive fair one ſhall betray;
Then boldly ſnatch the joyful prize;
A ring or bracelet tear away:
While ſhe not too ſeverely coy,
Struggling ſhall yield the willing toy.

FRANCIS.

" In the two laſt lines, Horace gives us a pic-

" ture of what happens at a houſe door. In " Italy, the young girls are permitted to ſtep " to the door, for a moment, eſpecially at the " beginning of night. The lover is careful to " paſs and repaſs, that he may catch the in- " ſtant in which he may remind his miſtreſs " of the hour of their nightly meetings, preſs " her to obſerve her promiſe, and endeavour " to obtain a token. The laſt is generally no " more than a pretext, that he may ſqueeze " her hand, and take a ring from her finger " which is weakly defended."

Thus far Galiani; and I have no difficulty in admitting that the two laſt lines explain what actually happens. The girl has played tricks with and laughed at her lover; and, being inclined to be reconciled, runs down to the houſe door. She quarrels with him only for the pleaſure of making it up. Our vetturino, a lively young man, who has ſeveral times travelled over all Sicily, was not ſo weary by riding in the heat but that he willingly touched the ſtrings of his inſtrument nightly before many a window. Abſent from home and in want of a more tender object, he ſometimes gave us a ſerenade.

Yeſterday, we rode through an open, and, in general,

general, an ill-cultivated country. There are two large remains of the ancient town of *Egeſta*, nine Italian miles from Alcamo : one of which is a temple, that is in as good preſervation as the temple of Pæſtum. It has ſix-and-thirty pillars ; and is fourteen pillars in length and ſix in breadth. They are of the Doric order, and of the travertine ſtone : no doubt from the rocks of the country. The pillars ſtand upon ſocles: which ſingle circumſtance ſeems to prove them of a later æra than that in which the temple of Pæſtum was built; the pillars of which have no ſocles. The architrave and the two frontiſpieces have withſtood the ravages of time. Some pillars have been repaired by the preſent King; and a Latin inſcription, which points them out, diſfigures theſe remains of antiquity. The pillars are ſo large that three of us could not within an ell and a half encircle one of them. Contrary to the Grecian manner, they are poliſhed : but probably they have been fluted ; for they are ſomewhat broader than the chapiters, and, below, where they reſt upon the ſocles, they have each an inciſion of about three inches in height and two in depth, which is carried round them, and appears to

ſhew the intended ſize of the complete pillar. It is as difficult to determine whether this temple had an inner row of pillars, an inner wall, and a cell, ναος, as to diſcover the deity to which it was dedicated. The ancients mention ſeveral temples of this town. Neither can it be known whether the great flat ſtone, in the middle, was placed there as an altar, or as an idol.

This temple, like that of Pæſtum, is encircled by two ſteps. Within, the building is ſeventy-one paces in length, and twenty-ſix in breadth; and without, not including the ſteps, ſeventy-eight paces in length, and thirty-three in breadth.

There are likewiſe, on a hill, large ruins of an ancient theatre; which ſhew the whole circumference of what was properly the theatre: that is, that part in which the ſemicircular ſeats of the ſpectators roſe, one above the other. It is conſtructed of large hewn ſtones; but there is no trace of the ſtage. Beſide being ſpectators of the performance, the audience had a fine proſpect toward the ſea.

On the right of theſe remains the river meanders; which the founders of Egeſta, who were fugitive Trojans, called the *Scamandrus:*

to

to remind them of the river of their own country.

South of the town the *Simois* empties itſelf into it; which was likewiſe ſo called by them, after another Trojan river. I do not know its modern name. The *Scamandrus* is now called *Bartolomeo;* and, near its mouth, *Fiume Frigido.*

Virgil gives the ancient names of theſe rivers, when Iris, under the form of old *Beroe*, comes, at the command of Juno, and excites the Trojan women to burn the ſhips.

Nullane jam Trojæ dicentur mœnia? nuſquam
Hectoreos amnes, Xanthum et Simoenta videbo?

ÆN. v. 633.

Shall we no more the Trojan walls renew,
Or ſtreams of ſome diſſembled Simois view?

DRYDEN, v. 825.

Xanthus and Scamandrus are names of the ſame river.

Ὃν Ξάνθον καλέσσι θεοὶ, ἀνδρες δὲ Σκαμάνδρον.

Xanthus his name, with thoſe of heavenly birth:
But called Scamander by the ſons of earth.

POPE, Il. b. xx. v. 101.

The women followed the counſel of Beroe, four of the ſhips were burned, and Æneas, obliged

obliged to leave as many men behind as theſe ſhips had contained, aided by his hoſt, Aceſtes, the ſon of the river Crimiſus and a Trojan woman, founded this town: which Virgil therefore did not call *Egeſta*, but *Aceſta*.

That Æneas governed the Trojans, after the deſtruction of Troy, is beyond all doubt. Homer makes Neptune thus ſpeak in the aſſembly of the Gods.

Νυν δε δη Αινειαο βιη Τρωεσσιν αναξει,
Και παιδες παιδων, τοι κεν μετοπιθε γενωνται.

On great Æneas ſhall devolve the reign;
And ſon ſucceeding ſon the laſt in line ſuſtain.
POPE, v. 354.

I believe that he rebuilt the walls of Ilion, and that he reigned there: but this much is certain that, according to an ancient tradition, he travelled to Sicily and Italy. Virgil, as a Roman poet, profited by this flattering popular tale, and thus derived the Romans from the Trojans. It was likewiſe acceptable to him, becauſe the family of Cæſar boaſted of their deſcent from a ſon of Æneas.

However this may be, the towns of Eryx and Egeſta, according to the teſtimony of the ancients,

ancients, were founded by Trojans, who had eſcaped from the Greeks*.

Egeſta, which was likewiſe called *Ægeſta*, and *Segeſta*, was a mighty city. It twice induced the Athenians, during the Peloponneſian war, to make an attack upon Sicily. The Egeſtians, or *Aceſtæi*, were at war with the *Selinuntii*; as well concerning confines as becauſe of a marriage. The *Selinuntii*, who had aſked aid of Syracuſe, preſſed upon their enemy by land and ſea. The Aceſtæi reminded the Athenians of the alliance they had made with them during the laſt war, requeſted naval aſſiſtance, and, which was a more powerful motive, led the Athenians to ſuſpect that, ſince the people of Syracuſe had not been puniſhed for driving out the Leontini from their city, they would ſoon rule all Sicily; and, perhaps, as Dores, aſſiſt the Dorians of Peloponneſus, and thus aid them to deſtroy the power of Athens. It would therefore be wiſe in them to join the confederates againſt Syracuſe; and the more ſo as they, the Aceſtæi, would ſupply money ſufficient for the war.

The Athenians firſt determined to ſend

* Thucydides.

ambaſ-

ambaſſadors to Egeſta; who ſhould enquire how far it was provided with the promiſed ſums, which the Aceſtæi pretended to have in the treaſury, and in the temples; and likewiſe to inform themſelves of the ſtate of the war between the Aceſtæi and the Selinuntii †.

The ambaſſadors returned with ſixty talents of unwrought ſilver from Egeſta, as the monthly pay for ſixty ſhips. Theſe ambaſſadors and the Aceſtæi themſelves both told many untruths, concerning the riches of Egeſta, in a public aſſembly of the people, and war was declared in Athens and ſixty galleys were ſent.

They afterward diſcovered that the ambaſſadors had been deceived, by the people of Egeſta; who had firſt taken them to the temple of Venus, on Mount Eryx, and there had diſplayed its wealth in flagons, goblets, cenſers, and other veſſels; with their remaining no ſmall treaſure in ſilver, which appeared greater than it was in reality. They next invited the Athenians to their banquets; and, on theſe occaſions, produced gold and ſilver veſſels, the greateſt part of which had been borrowed from the Phœnicians and Greek

* Thucyd. lib. vi. p. 381.

towns of Sicily. As theſe veſſels were exhibited wherever the Athenians were invited, and on each occaſion were ſuppoſed to be the property of the hoſt, the ambaſſadors formed a magnificent idea of the wealth of the Aceſtæi, which they reported to Athens*.

In the afternoon, we rode twenty-one miles, the heat being rather ſevere, through an open flat country, covered with grain. The farmers were buſied with their wheat harveſt. The country near Trapani became more pleaſant; in which town we met a kind reception at the houſe of a merchant, to whom we had a letter of recommendation.

Before we entered the town, we ſaw a fire burning on a tower by the ſea ſide. Similar fires are kindled every evening, along the whole coaſt of Sicily: which cuſtom of fire ſignals is very ancient. It is mentioned by Homer, in the eighteenth book of the Iliad.

Αυταρ Αχιλλευς ωρτο Διϊ φιλος· αμφι δ' Αθηνη
Ωμοις αφθιμοισι βαλ' αιγιδα θυσσανοεσσαν·
Αμφι δε οι κεφαλη νεφος εστεφε δια θεαων
Χρυσεον, εκ δ' αυτου δαιε φλογα παμφανοωσαν.
Ως δ' οτε καπνος ιων εξ αστεος αιθερ' ικηται
Τηλοθεν εκ νησου, την δηϊοι αμφιμαχονται,

* Thucyd. lib. vi. p. 408.

Οιτε

Ὅιτε πανημερίοι συγερῳ κρίνονται ἀρηϊ
Ἀστος ἐκ σφετερης· ἁμα δ' ηελίῳ καταδυντι
Πυρσοι τε φλεγεθουσιν ἐπητριμοι, ὑψοσε δ' αυγη
Γινεται ἀϊσσουσα, περικτιονεσσιν ἰδεσθαι,
Αἰκεν πως συν νηυσιν ἀρεως ἀλκτῆρες ικωνται.

Hom. Il. xviii. 203.

——————The hero roſe;
Her ægis, Pallas o'er his ſhoulders throws.
Around his brows a golden cloud ſhe ſpread;
A ſtream of glory flam'd above his head.
As when from ſome beleaguer'd town ariſe
The ſmokes, high-curling to the ſhaded ſkies;
(Seen from ſome iſland o'er the main, afar,
When men diſtreſt hang out the ſign of war)
Soon as the ſun in ocean hides his rays,
Thick on the hills the flaming beacons blaze;
With long projected beams the ſeas are bright,
And heavn's high arch reflects the ruddy light:
So from Achilles' head the ſplendors riſe,
Reflecting blaze on blaze, againſt the ſkies.

Pope, Il. b. xviii. 241.

Such fires are likewiſe mentioned by Æſchylus; and Cicero tells us the Sicilians had the ancient cuſtom of giving notice, by theſe tokens, of the approach of pirates. Among the documents of the thirteenth century, we find an order of King Peter, of the houſe of Arragon, to kindle theſe fires; and, in the year 1329, a ſimilar command was iſſued by his ſon Frederic, to the univerſity of Palermo. In the

the year 1579, the Parliament of Sicily laid a tax upon the inhabitants of ten thouſand *ſcudi*, for the maintenance of ſuch fires; which tax has ſince been increaſed. Every evening, at the time when the Italians ſay their *Ave Maria*, which is a cuſtom among the devout, that is, once in twenty-four hours, about half an hour after ſun ſet, one of theſe fires is kindled on a tower at Meſſina. As ſoon as it is perceived at the next tower toward the ſouth, the ſame token is likewiſe there kindled; and ſo, from tower to tower, along the whole coaſt round the iſland, with ſuch expedition that, in a quarter of an hour, the neighbouring token to the weſtward is ſeen at Palermo. If, after a ſhort time, the fires are extinguiſhed, it is a mark of perfect ſafety: but, if pirates are diſcovered, the fire is ſuffered to burn all night at the place from which they were ſeen.

Trapani derives its ancient name, *Drepanum*, from the form of its haven; which reſembles a ſickle. The Greek word, δρεπανον, ſignifies a ſickle. It is an ancient city; which, according to Virgil, had exiſtence as early as Æneas.

Diodorus tells us that Drepanum was fortified

tified during the firſt Punic war by Hamilcar, the father of Hannibal, who had built the city and peopled it with inhabitants from Eryx *: but others are of opinion that it was only re-peopled by him. Had it been built no more than two hundred and fifty years in the time of Virgil, he would ſcarcely have attributed a poetical exiſtence to it of ſuch great antiquity.

The Carthaginians were always deſirous of poſſeſſing and preſerving this place; becauſe of the excellence of its haven. It is a large and well-built city, and its ſtreets are in a right line. About thirty years ago, it was ſuppoſed to contain ſeventeen thouſand five hundred inhabitants; and the number has probably increaſed to twenty thouſand. It is built on a peninſula; and, during the winter, is entirely ſurrounded by the ſea. Excellent ſea ſalt is made here. The ſun is ſufficient to bake and bleach it: it is therefore cheap, and taken in great quantities by foreign nations, eſpecially the Engliſh; though the tax they pay for permiſſion to export it is equal to half the price.

Facing the city, there is a fortreſs on a rocky iſland, which is called *La Colombara*. It had

* Diod. lib. xiii.

a name

a name of the ſame ſignification in the times of the Greeks: Πελειας νησος: the iſle of doves.

This morning we rode over the hill *San Giuliano:* the famous mount Eryx of the ancients. According to the fable, Eryx, the ſon of Venus and King Butes, lived here; and poſſeſſed a part of the iſland. Hercules, on his paſſage through Sicily, was challenged to combat by Eryx; who ſtaked his lands againſt the cattle brought from Spain and the immortality of Hercules. The latter was victorious, and left the lands to the inhabitants; on condition that, if any of his deſcendants ſhould require it, they ſhould be reſigned to them. Dorieus, the Spartan, one of theſe deſcendants, came, as ſome ſay in the 70th, others the 78th Olympiad, and built Heraclea: or rather took poſſeſſion of Minoa from the Cretans (who, after the death of *Minos*, built the town of *Minoa)* and called it *Heraclea.* This town rapidly increaſed, but was deſtroyed by the Carthaginians*.

The fable ſays, that Eryx built a temple on this mountain, and conſecrated it to his mother, Venus. "Few temples," ſays Diodorus, "were equally celebrated. It was founded

* Diod. lib. iv.

" by Eryx, and richly endowed by Æneas. " The Sicani paid it great honours : ſo did the " Carthaginians, when they governed a part " of the iſland ; and ſtill more the Romans, " who conſider themſelves as derived from " the Goddeſs, and to her aſcribe their gran- " deur. The conſuls, prætors, and other " commanders, here paid public homage; and, " in obedience to the Goddeſs, ſtripping them- " ſelves of the gloomy pomp of power, here " recreated themſelves with ſports, and the in- " tercourſe of women. The ſenate decreed " that the citizens of the ſeventeen moſt " faithful towns of Sicily, in honour of the " Goddeſs, ſhould adorn themſelves with gold, " and maintain a guard of two hundred men " for her temple *."

The goddeſs was ſerved by young women ; who dedicated themſelves to her, and to the ſhameful cuſtom of proſtituting themſelves for money, which they ſhared with the temple.

People ſay that the women of the little town of *San Giuliano*, which is on the eaſtern ſummit of the hill, are very beautiful. I know they are very fearful. I ſaw none but old women : but they bore no marks of beauty

* Diod. lib. iv. p. 326.

in decay. The timidity of the young women of *San Giuliano* has been remarked by other travellers.

Prodigious foundations, on which the Saracens erected a caſtle, indubitably denote the place where the temple ſtood; and are remains of greater certainty than the fountain, which is called the ſpring of Venus: although I will not deny its antiquity. I rather believe it to be of thoſe times. We ſee ſome pillars in the wall of the caſtle, placed horizontally, which the Saracens uſed merely as aiding to raiſe the wall; but which certainly belonged to the temple of Venus. There is a wall, which has cavities for neſting doves; and many doves were kept at the temple: but its architecture appears to me to denote a later æra. Numerous wild pigeons neſt there at preſent. The fable ſays the doves of the Goddeſs were ſometimes accuſtomed all to fly away; and that they then followed her to Africa. This fable is founded on a truth. A kind of wild pigeons, like other birds of paſſage, annually fly in great numbers to Africa; from whence they in like manner return, at a ſtated time.

Trapani is ſupplied from this mountain

with water; which paſſes through a very long and beautiful aqueduct, into which three different ſprings empty themſelves. As the country people frequently injure the pipes, by watering their fields and gardens, the towns people keep ciſterns in their houſes, which are filled with the water of the aqueduct.

The inhabitants of the mountain town *San Giuliano* have gardens, and ſmall fields, on the hill itſelf. Moſt of their tilled lands lie below the town; to which the men, early every Monday, go, and do not return till Saturday evening. Some of them take their wives and children; but in general they live with their families only on Sundays, and feſtivals. As jealouſy is common to them, probably they commit their wives to the ſtrict guard of old matrons; which may be the reaſon that both wives and young women are ſo timid.

On this coaſt, and among theſe mountains, the Cyclops of Homer lived; who were afterward tranſported to Ætna, by later mythologiſts.

——————— ὑψηλων ὀρεων ναιουσι καρηνα
Ἐν σπεσσι γλαφυροισι ———.

Od. b. ix. 113.

But

But high on hills, on airy cliffs, they dwell:
Or deep in caves, whoſe entrance leads to hell.
POPE, v. 129.

I ſaw a cavern in the rock of the mountain, which reminded me of this paſſage of the great poet.

The hill of *San Giuliano* is likewiſe called *Monte di Trapani;* and we ſaw from its top a large tract of Sicily, though the horizon was miſty: by which Ætna was concealed.

The three iſlands, called the *Ægates*, or *Ægades*, lie adjacent to Trapani: their preſent names are *Leranzo*, *Maritimo*, and *Favignana:* which is likewiſe called *Favognana.* The two firſt are the higheſt; and probably Homer, comparing the laſt with the others, called it low; and indeed, ſome few excepted, all the iſlands of this ſea are much higher. *Favignana* has a convenient port, and good anchorage. It was uninhabited in the time of Homer; and only ſerved as the haunts of wild goats. It is now peopled, and affords paſturage to cattle. Its cheeſe is much eſteemed; and it produces corn, but not in abundance. The haven, which Homer mentions, is a ſmall ſafe bay.

Favignano is ſo very full of ſprings that the

horſes and aſſes, pawing with their hoofs on the ſea ſhore, will occaſion the freſh water to bubble out of the ſand. Its figs and wine are good; and its pomegranates, which have no kernels, are famous. Homer regrets that it was not cultivated: it being naturally ſo fruitful:

——— φεροι δε κεν ὡρια παντα—

Hom. Od. ix. 131.

All things in ſeaſon 'twould produce—

and I have heard people ſtill regret that it is not cultivated as it ought to be. Homer calls it woody; and it ſtill has a ſmall grove of the aſh and poplar. We are told, by a modern Sicilian author, that it breeds rabbits, and chamois; which laſt, are the wild goats of Homer.

It was here that Ulyſſes was driven by night; and, on the next day, hunted the wild goat. Here he left his ſhips; one excepted, in which he ſailed to the Cyclops, and met with his famous adventures. The two rocks are ſeen, facing Trapani, which gave occaſion to the fable of the two enormous ſtones, hurled by the Cyclops after the ſhip of Ulyſſes. The firſt, falling beyond the ſhip,

ſhip, drove it back toward the ſhore: the ſecond, falling ſhort, impelled it toward the little iſland.

Great latitude muſt be allowed to the text, and an iſland that does not exiſt muſt be raiſed out of the ſea, and again be ſuffered to diſappear, if we would allow thoſe authors to have reaſon who place the Cyclops of Homer on Mount Ætna. Here, on the contrary, the moſt trivial circumſtances accord with each other; and do honour to the poet, who, as a traveller, at a time when travelling was attended with almoſt inſurmountable difficulties, had been ſo accurate in his obſervations.

It was one of the rocks in this ſea which Virgil has deſcribed, as the goal for the ſhip race; when, in the fifth book of the Æneid, he ſo beautifully pictures the games that were given in honour of his dead father, Anchiſes.

In the time of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, there was a ſecret community at Trapani, which called itſelf *La confraternità di San Paolo:* the fraternity of Saint Paul. Theſe people, when aſſembled, paſſed ſentence on their fellow citizens; and, if any one was condemned, the way laying and putting him

to death was allotted to one of the members; which dreadful office he was obliged without murmuring to execute.

This fraternity will remind you of our German ſecret tribunal, of the middle ages: a court which we now juſtly hold in abhorrence. In theſe ages of anarchy, when in truth the power of our Emperors and Princes could ſeldom reſtrain the exceſſes of the great, this horrible cuſtom might perhaps be neceſſary: that open oppreſſion might be counteracted by an oppreſſion of a ſecret and therefore of a more dreadful kind.

It appears that our ſecret tribunal maintained the reſpect in which it was held chiefly by its rigid impartiality. The free ſpirit of the Germans would not have endured the capricious exerciſe of ſecret injuſtice.

The country round Trapani abounds with large fields of the kali plant; or ſoda; which is uſed for the producing of the alkali, that is ſo neceſſary to the glaſs manufactories. The quantity of pot aſh which this plant annually yields for exportation, through the whole kingdom, is eſtimated at two hundred thouſand *cantari*.

Coral in great quantities is found in the haven

haven of this town, and forms a conſiderable branch of trade.

Small figures in baſſo relievo are here cut on ſhells: but this ingenious work is much more neatly performed at Rome.

Trapani has a gymnaſium, but no bookſeller. A city that contains twenty thouſand inhabitants without a bookſeller!! A German, from time to time, ſupplies them with books from his ſmall itinerant library. Thoſe who do not need or will not wait for his aſſiſtance muſt write for books to Palermo.

LETTER LXXXIX.

Girgenti, 17th June 1792.

WE rode, on the 13th, through a flat and open country, from Trapani to *Mazzara;* and ſaw the iſland *Pantaleone*, in the forenoon, on our right. Unlike the reſt of the iſlands of the Mediterranean that I have ſeen, it is low: except indeed the two ſmall iſlands of the Tarantine bay, the ſhores of which are flat.

This

This iſland, and the town it contained, were called by the ancients *Motya*. The town was founded by the Phœnicians, was inhabited in the 50th Olympiad by the Greeks, from *Cnidus* in *Caria*, and was ſoon again taken, in common, by the Phœnicians and Carthaginians.

In early times, this iſland was united to the ſhore by a mound: but it was afterward deſtroyed by the inhabitants, to cut off the enemy on the land ſide.

Soon after we had left the ſmall iſland behind us on the right, we arrived at the town of Marſalia; which, according to the eſtimate of the year 1775, contains from fifteen to ſixteen thouſand inhabitants.

Here ſtood *Lilybæum*: Λιλυβαιον: famous for its haven among the ancients, and not unfrequently noticed in hiſtory. Thucydides does not mention this town, though it muſt have exiſted in his time. Diodorus, in one place, ſays that it was built by the Carthaginians; after Motya had been deſtroyed by Dionyſius; yet he appears only to mean that it was peopled with new inhabitants; for he elſewhere tells us that, in the third year of the 81ſt Olympiad, 452 years before Chriſt, the

the people of *Lilybæum* were at war with the *Aceſtæi* concerning the lands on the banks of the Mazzara: which was above fifty years before the deſtruction of Motya, by Dionyſius.

The people of Lilybæum muſt have been powerful, when they were at war with the Aceſtæi; for, according to Diodorus, many on both ſides were ſlain in a battle *. Several ancient writers likewiſe relate that one Strabo, a ſharp-ſighted man, ſaw a Carthaginian fleet from a watch tower ſail out of the haven of Carthage; and that he even counted the number of ſhips: but I conſider this tale as fabulous. When the ſcirocco blows, and then only, the African promontory of *Capo buono* may be ſeen: but this is at leaſt from thirteen to fourteen German miles nearer than Tunis; and Tunis occupies the place where Carthage ſtood. Beſide, the globular form of the earth makes it impoſſible to diſcover a ſhip at the diſtance of thirty German miles: and Marſalla is no leſs from Tunis.

Before we arrived at Mazzara in the evening, we ſaw many ſingle houſes newly built.

During the whole day, we met with many palm trees; which, beautiful as they are, we

* Diod. vol. i. p. 469.

always

always here find planted ſingly: or two together, at the moſt.

The weſt coaſt of Sicily is not ſo well watered as the north, and it is therefore poor in *agrumi:* but the figs are excellent, and in abundance. Yet they ill ſupply the want of the heart refreſhing ſweet orange, which cools the blood, and of which you cannot eaſily eat too many. Thus it is preſcribed, both in Sicily and Italy, by the phyſicians, as the beſt remedy for various diſeaſes: as likewiſe are ice fruits, and water cooled by the ſnow.

Mazzara may contain about eight thouſand inhabitants. According to Cluverius, it belonged to the *Selinuntii.*

Juſt before our arrival at Mazzara, we thought we ſaw the ſun go down behind the African promontory, *Capo buono:* but it was the iſland *Pantellaria*, formerly called *Coſſyra*, which is ſix German miles from Africa. The Phœnicians ſent a colony hither; and it afterward belonged to the Carthaginians. It is very hilly, and abounds in woods, corn fields, wine, oil, fruits, vegetables, and cotton. The inhabitants likewiſe breed many cattle, and goats.

This iſland is characterized by its extraordinary

dinary caverns. The people make a peculiar kind of oil, from the berry of the *lentiſcus*: but the cotton is their principal branch of trade. It is ſix German miles in circumference: but it is only inhabited on the north-weſt ſide, becauſe it is ſo much expoſed to be plundered by the corſairs. For this reaſon, the King maintains a garriſon of a hundred and forty men in the principal town; which is fortified, and provided with artillery. The inhabitants however do not entirely depend on the ſoldiers, but on their own circumſpection and courage: for they keep watch by turns on ten towers that are built on the ſhore.

The air of the iſland is healthy, and its inhabitants are ſtrong. A ſulphurous ſpring ſupplies them with beverage: and they employ the rain water for other purpoſes, kept in ciſterns. They as diligently cultivate as they boldly defend their little country. Even the women partake of theſe qualities. Acquainted with female duties, exceedingly induſtrious at the loom, the diſtaff, and the bleaching ground, they will frequently forſake theſe occupations, and handle the oar. They boaſt of underſtanding

ſtanding the art of fiſhing, and of managing their veſſels, equal to the men; and it is even affirmed, in Sicily, that they have frequently been ſeen, on the approach of the Africans, to run to the ſhore with arms in their hands *.

This warlike ardour and animated love of their country, for which the inhabitants of ſmall iſlands are remarkable, is cheriſhed by the aſpect of the enemy's coaſt, by the remembrance of the times when they were governed by the Saracens, from whoſe yoke Count Roger releaſed them, and by later misfortunes. In the year 1553, Dragut, Captain Pacha of the Porte, landed with a hundred galleys, took the fortreſs, and made a thouſand priſoners †.

Its preſent population conſiſts of more than four thouſand ſouls. The language of the people is a mixture of the African and the Italian ‡.

On the 14th, we ſaw the little towns of *Salſemi* and *Partanna* on our left. Salſemi is the ancient *Halicyæ*: Ἁλικυαὶ. Its Sicilian, like its Greek, name is derived from ſalt

* Amico, Lex. Top. Sic. † Fazello.
‡ Amico, Lex. Top. Sic.

ſprings.

ſprings. According to the newly publiſhed Arabic documents * from Palermo, it was called *Saleiman*, by a Saracen general, after his beloved ſon; who was wounded in battle, and who died the next day.

In *Caſtellvetrano*, a letter of recommendation opened to us the palace of the abſent Duke of Terranova (of the Pignatelli family) which contains a conſiderable collection of old armour. The number of the inhabitants of this place is about eleven thouſand.

In the church of St. John, there is a beautiful marble ſtatue of John the Baptiſt. The countenance, in particular, is full of dignified expreſſion. It was executed in the year 1522, and is the work of Gagini; an artiſt of Palermo.

On the 15th, the heat began ſo early in the day that, at ſix o'clock, we were obliged to uſe our umbrellas. Yet we heard the nightingale, near Caſtellvetrano, in a garden of *agrumi* and pomegranate trees: though in Germany it is uſually ſilent in the heat. During the forenoon, we rode through an open country. Great quantities of a low ſhrub are ſeen, through the whole *val de Mazzara*, which,

* Geſchichte der Araber in Sicil. 1. th. ſ. 52.

becauſe of its reſemblance to the palm branch, is called the dwarf palm. Its botanic name is *palma chamærops*; and *chamærops humilis*: the Sicilians call it *giumarra*. Its leaves reſemble the ſticks of an open fan. Before theſe leaves open themſelves, they adhere to each other; and have the form of a long boat, which will hold water: as I have frequently proved. This ſhrub with us is only about the height of the fern: but here I have ſeen it of the height of man. It is uſed for brooms, and ſent to Italy.

Some imagine that Virgil, from this plant, called Selinus *palmoſa Selinus*. At preſent, the palm tree no longer grows in that country: but is this any proof that it never grew there? This argument would only have weight if the palm tree were a native of the iſland; which it is not. Palm trees in Sicily, as in the kingdom of Naples, are reared by man. The wild parſley, or *apium*, grows here in great quantities: after the Greek name of which, σελινον, and σελινος, the town of *Selinunt*, or more properly *Selinoeis*, and as commonly abbreviated *Selinus*, was named.

Here it was that Timoleon, by an admirable preſence of mind, removed a diſagreeable impreſſion

preſſion made upon his army; which might have been dangerous. When he was about to pitch his camp, the country people came with mules that were loaded with parſley; which was intended to ſerve the ſoldiers inſtead of ſtraw: but, as this was the plant with which the Greeks decorated their graves, they conſidered it as an unpropitious token, and began to murmur. Timoleon ſeized the parſley, wove it into a garland for his temples, and congratulated his ſoldiers, reminding them that the victors at the Iſthmian games were crowned with parſley; and thus ſo greatly exalted their courage that they all followed his example. The recollection was the ſtronger in their minds becauſe a part of them were Corinthians, who had frequently been ſpectators of theſe games in their own country, and part Syracuſians, who were originally of Corinth. The following day, Timoleon gained a great victory over the Carthaginians, obtained much booty, and erected a trophy *.

The remains of Selinus conſiſt of the ruins of three Greek temples; which, for their wild, deſolate, and confuſed, aſpect, I never

* Plut. Life of Tim.

ſaw equalled. An earthquake only could have ſported thus with maſſes ſo cumbrous. The huge ſhafts of pillars, with their Doric chapiters, lie tumbled together: ſome few only ſtanding, and thoſe not more than half their height. The higheſt, at a diſtance, looks like a watch tower. It was not without difficulty that we could arrive at it, by clambering over the ruins. We could not come at it below, but were obliged to take its meaſure ſome ells above the ground; and found its circumference to be twenty-eight Pariſian feet: *pieds de Roi.* They muſt have been at leaſt a foot larger below in circumference: for theſe pillars, according to the old Doric manner, are very much tapered. It ſtands in the foremoſt temple, in which all the pillars are poliſhed, and that probably was dedicated to Zeus: who was held in great honour, by the *Selinuntii.* The pillars of the two other temples are fluted: that with the poliſhed pillars is the largeſt. From theſe poliſhed pillars, and from the ſtones which I ſaw that were only half wrought, I conjecture that this great temple was building at the time of its deſtruction. This is the more probable becauſe I am told

told that, in the neighbouring *latomiæ*, or ſtone quarries, ſtill ſeveral unfiniſhed ſhafts of pillars are found.

Selinus was founded a century after the building of the *Hyblæan Megara*, by citizens from this place; which lay between *Leontium* and Syracuſe. This happened in the firſt year of the 38th Olympiad, 627 years before Chriſt, under a leader called Pamilus*.

In the firſt year of the 91ſt Olympiad, 414 years before the birth of Chriſt, the *Aceſtæi*, who were at war with the *Selinuntii*, ſent to Athens for aid: to which likewiſe the people of Leontium, having been driven from that city by the Syracuſians, ſent the celebrated Gorgias.

The Athenians, who only ſought an opportunity to ſubject all Sicily, complied with their requeſt †.

You know how unfortunate this war was to Athens. The *Aceſtæi* were obliged to yield the conteſted lands to the *Selinuntii*; but, as the latter were ſtill unſatisfied, the *Aceſtæi* ſent to Carthage, offering their city to the Carthaginians. After various embaſſies, in the 4th year of the 92d Olympiad, 407 years before

* Thuc. lib. vi. p. 380. † Diod. lib. xii. v. i. p. 537.

the birth of Chriſt, the Carthaginians ſent Hannibal, the grandſon of Hamilcar, who fell before Himera, with a powerful army againſt Selinus.

It had been long ſince the Selinuntii had ſuſtained a ſiege. During the former war, which the Carthaginians waged againſt Gelo, about ſeventy years before, the Selinuntii were the only Greeks in the iſland who had been their allies, and little expected ſuch a return. Each age and ſex took a part in the defence of their city, and their freedom; and Hannibal encouraged his troops by the promiſe of plunder. Battering rams were placed againſt the walls, and the moſt valorous vied with each other in the attack, while the trumpets and ſhouts of war of the beſieging army reſounded at the onſet. A part of the walls fell before the battering engines, the Campanian ſoldiers preſſed forward and were driven back by the Selinuntii, and the battle ceaſed as night approached.

In the morning, Hannibal renewed the battle; which raged for nine days, the women hurling tiles from the roofs on the foe. At length, the Selinuntii were driven from their narrow ſtreets, and collected in the public

place; where, while they ſtill continued to fight, they were all put to the ſword.

The Carthaginians plundered and ſet fire to the city; many of the inhabitants of which were burned in their houſes, the reſt were murdered without regard to age or ſex, and the dead were mutilated, and their heads borne on pikes.

The women, who with their children had fled to the temples, were commanded to be ſpared: not in compaſſion, but from the fear that they would conſume themſelves and the temples by fire, and thus deprive the victors of their expected ſpoil. At the approach of night, the city was plundered, a part of the houſes were burned, others were pulled down*,

* Some may be ſurpriſed that the ancients, whoſe cities were ſo frequently taken and burned, did not, like the preſent Italians and Sicilians, build their houſes of ſtone. But why ſhould they, in theſe unfortunate times, build houſes which ſhould remain when the citizens ſhould be ſlaughtered, and their wives and children ſold as ſlaves? As to the burning of the temples, it can only be underſtood that the treaſure, furniture, and inward parts, could be burned. That the temples themſelves had nothing to fear from the flames, a glance at the prodigious ruins will render ſufficiently apparent. They could only be deſtroyed by a ſucceſſion of ages, and earthquakes.

and blood and death filled the ſtreets. Sixteen thouſand of the ſlain were found, above five thouſand priſoners were taken, and during the night the Carthaginians exerciſed the moſt fiend-like cruelty, and luſt. Two thouſand ſix hundred of the Selinuntii eſcaped, and fled to Agrigentum, where they were maintained at the public expence; and the citizens, who were ſufficiently diſpoſed to befriend them, were exhorted to afford them every aid.

At this time, three thouſand choſen Syracuſians, who had been ſent to aſſiſt the Selinuntii, arrived at Agrigentum: who, when they heard what had befallen Selinus, ſent envoys to Hannibal, requeſting him to ſuffer the priſoners to be ranſomed, and to ſpare the temples. He replied, "the Selinuntii had "not been able to endure freedom, and muſt "now try ſlavery: their angry Gods had for-"ſaken them." But, when the fugitives ſent Empedion to him, who had always oppoſed the war with Carthage, Hannibal ſet the relations of this man who were priſoners at liberty; and permitted the Selinuntii to rebuild the houſes of their town and country, on paying tribute to Carthage.

Selinus

Selinus had been built two hundred and forty years when it was taken by Hannibal*.

In the ſame year, being the 4th of the 92d Olympiad and 407 years before Chriſt, Heimocrates, the great leader of Syracuſe, took poſſeſſion of this deſolated city, and collected ſuch of the ſcattered citizens as had eſcaped from the Carthaginians.

Eleven years afterward, Selinus again became ſo powerful that, on the invitation of Dionyſius, it took part in the war againſt the people of Carthage.

The city after this continued a hundred and thirty years; when it was once more deſtroyed by the Carthaginians, and the people tranſported to *Lilybæum*.

We now find no more mention of it, till, in the ninth century of the chriſtian æra, a Saracen General landed here, found a little town, deſtroyed it, and informed the Caliph, that, in order to ſpread the terror of his arms, he had put the citizens to the ſword, and had called the place *Beld el Braghit*, or the Town of Fleas, becauſe the inhabitants were taken like fleas †. The place where it ſtood, con-

* Diod. vol. i. l. 13. p. 583.

† *Geſchichte der Arab.* i. th. f. 8.

tinues to be desolate; while its grand remains denote its ancient magnificence, and its name, *Terra de gli Pulci*, or Land of Fleas, is a memento of the Mussulman's cruelty.

The surrounding country is very fertile. After we had surveyed the ruins, among which we found the wild fig growing, we rode along a small foot-path among the tall *lentiscus*, that rose above the cork tree; from the tops of which we heard the chirping of innumerable grasshoppers, of the species that the Greeks called *tettix*, and the Romans *cicada*. Their Italian name is *cicala*. This grasshopper is much smaller than ours, looks as the ancients say as if it lived upon dew, and leaps and flies with equal velocity. The Greeks delighted in them, for their agility. I cannot withstand the pleasure of citing the ode of Anacreon to a grasshopper.

Μακαριζομαι σε τεττιξ,
Ὁτε δενδρεων ἐπ ἀκρων
Ὀλιγην δροσον πεπωκως,
Βασιλευς ὁπως ἀειδεις
Σα γαρ ἐστι κεινα παντα,
Χ' ὁποσα βλεπεις ἐν ἀγροις,
Χ' ὁποσα φερουσιν ὑλαι.
Συ δε φιλιος γεωργων,
Ἀπο μηδενος τι βλαπτων·
Συ δε τιμιος βροτοισι,

Θερους

Θερεος γλυκυς προφητης.
Φιλεουσι μεν σε Μουσαι,
Φιλεει δε Φοιβος ἀυτος,
Λιγυρην ὀ' ἐδωκεν ὀιμην.
Τὸ δε γηρας ὀυ σε τειρει,
Σοφε, γηγενης, φιλυμνε,
Απαθης, ἀναιμοσαρκε·
Σχεδον ἐι θεοις ὀμοιος.

Happy inſect, what can be,
In happineſs, compar'd to thee?
Fed with nouriſhment divine,
The dewy morning's gentle wine!
Nature waits upon thee ſtill,
And thy verdant cup does fill,
'Tis fill'd, wherever thou doſt tread,
Nature's ſelf 's thy Ganymed.
Thou doſt drink, and dance, and ſing;
Happier, than the happieſt king!
All the fields, which thou doſt ſee,
All the plants belong to thee,
All that ſummer hours produce,
Fertile made with early juice.
Man for thee does ſow and plow:
Farmer he, and landlord thou!
Thou doſt innocently joy,
Nor does thy luxury deſtroy;
The ſhepherd gladly heareth thee,
More harmonious than he.
Thee country hinds with gladneſs hear,
Prophet of the ripen'd year!
Thee Phœbus loves, and does inſpire;
Phœbus is himſelf thy ſire.

To thee, of all things upon earth,
Life is no longer than thy mirth.
Happy inſect, happy thou
Doſt neither age nor winter know.
But when thou'ſt drunk, and danced, and ſung
Thy fill, the flowery leaves among,
(Voluptuous, and wiſe, with all,
Epicurean animal!)
Sated with thy ſummer feaſt,
Thou retir'ſt to endleſs reſt.

COWLEY.

They are uſually of a graſs green: though I have ſeen one of a yellow tint, with purple wings. Their note, though it has been ſo particularly celebrated by the ancients, muſt not be ſuppoſed harmonious. It is a ſhrill, noiſy, unvaried chirp, not much preferable to the chirping of our graſshopper.

We ſaw fine corn fields on the right; the corn ſtanding piled up, and the ſtubble denoting the excellence of its growth. Below, we ſaw the river *Belici*, meandering through theſe fields between its high banks; its courſe denoted by trees, and ſhrubs. This river is the *Hypſa* of the ancients. I did not perceive, between this and Selinus, the now nearly dried up marſh of *Jalici;* which the ancients called *Gonuſa*. Its unhealthy air

was

was once very dangerous to pregnant women. It was purified by the paſſage of two rivers; which were turned through it by *Empedocles*, the famous naturaliſt of Agrigentum.

Near a houſe which, from the bridge, is called *Ponte Belici*, we reſted at a place beſide the banks of this beautiful river, the recollection of which will ever be dear to me. Overcome by the great heat of the day, we reclined under ſpreading elms on the high banks of the cooling ſtream, ſurrounded by the wild vine, and the tamariſk*.

A ſcanty but cheerful meal gave us new ſtrength; aided by the well taſted wine of Caſtellvetrano, which is among the beſt wines of the iſland. I refreſhed myſelf by bathing in the river, before I ate, where it ruſhes between poliſhed rocks, and where a fallen tree ſeemed as if torn up by the roots to protect me from the peril of the torrent. We ſlept on the bare ground, roſe from the banks, revived, in the afternoon, and once more mounted our mules. Theſe animals are much better than the bad horſes, that we met with in Italy: ſo that, though we have travelled as far, we

* *Tamariſcus Gallica:* of which Theocritus and Virgil ſung, calling it *Myrica:* Μυρικα.

have

have always enjoyed ſome hours of refreſhing ſleep after our meals, during the heat of the day.

Our *vetturino*, who is a *campiere*, that is, one of the provincial guards, who are obliged on command to preſerve the ſafety of the roads, or to ſend ſubſtitutes, each wearing a uniform, and to eſcort travellers with arms attached to the ſaddle, this vetturino is a good and an agreeable man; who, in defiance of the heat, ſings like a graſshopper, and often affords us pleaſure by the ardour of and the incidents contained in his national ſongs. Our young drivers likewiſe are good lads: they delight in making us acquainted with the productions of their country, and aſk us many queſtions concerning the kind of corn, trees, and fruits, that are to be found in Germany.

We arrived at *Sciacca* in the evening; a well built town, ſituated on a hill by the ſea ſide. It is one of the towns that contain *caricatori*, or large granaries, in which the *Baroni* keep their corn for ſale. The time of exportation however is regulated by government. The oppreſſed proprietors dare not ſell their ſuperfluity to the foreign merchant. This ordinance no doubt is iſſued partly that the

the government may know how much corn has been ſold, and grant permiſſion or publiſh prohibitory orders accordingly, and partly that no deception may be practiſed to eſcape taxation: but, in any caſe, it is abſolute barbariſm to fetter this trade, in a country which formerly, when it fed many more inhabitants than it does at preſent, was called the granary of Rome.

This place was anciently called *Thermæ:* the hot baths: Θερμαι: likewiſe, Θερμα: e. i. Θερμα ὑδατα: becauſe of the vapour baths of the mountain, that is at the back of the town. The ancients aſcribed theſe vapour baths to Dædalus. The moderns think themſelves indebted for them to *San Calogero.* However groundleſs the firſt opinion may be, it will at leaſt prove the falſehood of the ſecond. The conjecture of my friend Münter is rational, and probable. It is that this *San Calogero*, of whom nothing determinate is known, can be no other than the ancient Dædalus; who probably, becauſe of his ſervices to his country, centuries after his death, was called by the Greeks *Calos Geron*, the handſome, or the dignified, old man.

Sciacca was called by the Romans *Thermæ Seli-*

Selinuntiæ. It contains many ingenious potters, who give their vaſes beautiful forms. I mention this circumſtance becauſe Agathocles, the tyrant of Syracuſe and of Sicily, was a potter's ſon, and born at Sciacca.

Yeſterday on the 16th, we rode all the morning through an open and in general an uncultivated country; which produces nothing, except the wild parſley, the giumarra, for ſo the Sicilians call the dwarf palm, many kinds of thiſtles, ſome of which I have never ſeen but in this iſland, and plants of the wolf thiſtle, that grow nearly to the height of a man. The flouriſhing growth of this plant denotes the ſcantineſs of population; and the fertility of the ſoil, which was farther proved by the ſtubble of ſome corn fields, the grain of which muſt have been excellent.

The blooming oleander here and there denoted the courſe of the river, meandering through the plain, and refreſhed the eye in this naked region.

The heat was great, and particularly felt as often as we were at ſome diſtance from the ſea: yet now and then we met with a cooling breeze, and we recreated ourſelves at two clear ſprings.

We

We rode through the river Platani, the *Halycus* of the ancients; which was the boundary of the Carthaginian domains.

We halted at noon in *Monte Allegro;* a village built on a rocky hill, ſurrounded by naked heights, and which probably owes its name* to a fertile and well watered valley. The uppermoſt houſes are now empty, and going to ruin; becauſe the inhabitants, forſaking theſe ſteep heights, have built on the declivity of the hill. The ancient Sicani, according to Diodorus, fought ſafety by building villages on the hills; and, not more than two hundred years ago, the modern Sicilians endeavoured to protect themſelves againſt the marauding pirates, by the ſame means.

In the cool of the evening, we rode to *Siculiana;* which Cluverius believes to be the place of the ancient *Camicus:* but Fazello and Amico place *Camicus* on the hill where the preſent *Girgenti* ſtands; and the teſtimony of the ancients better accords with their opinion than with that of Cluverius. The town belongs to the rich family of the Princes *Cattolica:* the number of its inhabitants is eſtimated at four thouſand four hundred.

* *Monte Allegro* means *merry* or *cheerful hill.* T.

This morning, we paſſed through a cultivated country, among vineyards, corn fields, and olive plantations, till we came to *Girgenti:* the ancient *Agrigentum.*

The haven lies four Italian miles from the city, and contains the largeſt granaries of Sicily. Granaries were built on the ſhores of the iſland as early as the times of the Saracens. Some people affirm that the regulations they iſſued were much more advantageous, to the corn trade, than the preſent: the inconveniences of which they avoided.

Near the haven of Girgenti, the corn is kept in ſubterranean magazines, cut in the rock, of an aſtoniſhing ſize. This is an excellent manner of preſerving the corn freſh, for many years, in this hot country. Among us, ſuch a cuſtom would be prejudicial: for our rocks are humid; eſpecially when under ground.

The road is carried along the haven, between the ſea and a high ſhore; the rocks of which are dazzlingly white.

Girgenti is built on a hill, with its foundation on the rock. The river *Dragi*, the ancient *Acragas*, after which the town was named, flows in the valley beneath.

LET-

LETTER XC.

Girgenti, 20th June 1792.

IT is a real pleaſure, for an obſerver of human occurrences, to caſt a backward glance from the place where we now ſtand on the ages that are flown. If the change of objects afford him delight, he yet gladly repoſes; and ſtops to examine the blue diſtances which, at the firſt view, appear to be clouds: but which a more fixed attention ſoon begins to embody. There where he only perceived azure miſts he begins to diſtinguiſh the works of nature, and of man; till greater diſtances become viſible, and others leſs perceptible are loſt in the ſoft ſhadings of the horizon.

All enquiry is at once cut ſhort, if we entirely reject thoſe diſtant times that, if they have any connection with our own, it is by an almoſt imperceptible thread: but, if we limit thoſe enquiries by the monuments that remain, we are in no danger of being deceived.

Some people exclaim—"Let us leave pedants, "that are loſt in the duſt and night of diſtant "ages, and that vainly endeavour to ſtrike "light out of darkneſs. Let the fanciful poet "revel in the imaginary adventures of fable: "we wiſh for hiſtorical truth; clear, indubi- "table, truth."

Let every man go his own road. Be each his own painter. In the extenſive and dark ſhaded regions of human knowledge, the foreſt of hiſtory finds its place; where innúmerable trees of a ſimilar kind are mingled, and confounded; and where, ſomewhat apart, the grove of poetry ſpreads its branches: yet, ſo connected are this foreſt and this grove, that he, who would raiſe a wall of ſeparation, would find he had undertaken an impoſſible taſk. And, were it accompliſhed, many with me would wiſh to overleap his boundary, and ſnatch the golden fruit, and liſten to the ſweet-noted nightingale. We will even ſuppoſe Pallas herſelf, in the form of Mentor, to be the guide of theſe ſages, and deſcribing the boundary line: Where ſhall it be? Where will they mark out the place over which not one ſtray ſeed of fable has been blown; or on which

which no bird of paſſage, quitting the poet's grove, has dropped a kernel?

While we hold certain hiſtory to be worthy our attention, if the progreſs of mind be intereſting to us, let us not think thoſe objects which the vale of fable ſhadows beneath our notice. As a man, if he be not ſtill a child, may eaſily comprehend the fables of Æſop without reading the morals at the end, ſo may he deſcry the origin of nations under the veil of fiction, or diſcover one event that ſhall throw light on a ſeries of ſucceeding events; and thus put the cynical and cenſorious caviller to the bluſh, who reproaches the candid enquirer of wiſhing to obtain light from darkneſs.

Poets make Minos one of the judges of the dead: but did not nations, whoſe monuments of various kinds prove their exiſtence, derive their laws from the laws he gave his iſlanders?

When the poet ſings the expedition of the Argonauts, ſhall we believe the whole to be falſe becauſe he likewiſe tells us of the dragon, and the incantations of Medea? Shall we deny the war of the ſeven heroes againſt Thebes, or the ſiege of Troy, becauſe we

neither believe in the enigma of the Sphinx, nor that Neptune built the walls of *Ilion* for *Laomedon?*

Theſe eras, exiſting as they do in the ſongs of the poets, even theſe, are among the moſt intereſting to the hiſtorical enquirer. The night of fable, rich in fanciful forms, drives her airy chariot over his brow. Viſions float around him; but they are the viſions of the morning, when day is beginning to break. Who does not feel diſguſt at the amours of *Paſiphaë*, and at the fabulous fruit of this amour, the double formed monſter, the Minotaur, that lived in the labyrinth? But the labyrinth itſelf exiſted. So did a Dædalus, by whom it was built. He built the labyrinth of *Cnoſſus*, after an ancient Egyptian model; the prodigious ruins of which we ſtill behold with aſtoniſhment.

The ſtory tells us that Minos was enraged againſt this Dædalus, becauſe by him the ſecret amour of his Queen *Paſiphaë* had been favoured. The artiſt flew, though not as the fable ſays on waxen wings, but probably by the aid of a ſhip of his own invention, over to Sicily; where he was received by Cocolus, or Cocalus,

Cocalus, the King of the Sicani. Here he built the ſtrongeſt city of his age, on the hill *Camicus*. This city, which was called *Camicus*, occupied the place on which afterward the ſtrongeſt part of *Agrigentum* ſtood.

Of this we are informed by Herodotus*, and Diodorus; who both farther relate that Minos purſued Dædalus, and required him to be delivered up by Cocolus: but that Minos had been murdered by the treachery of Cocolus.

The Sicani burned the ſhips of the Cretans, which had accompanied Minos; and the Cretans ſeparated: ſome of whom built *Minoa*, and others, after wandering round the ſhore built *Engyum*, on a ſtrong place beſide a fountain †.

Soon after the death of Minos, Herodotus, who appears in general to have conſidered the ſtory of the death of Minos as a report, ſays

* Herod. lib. vii.

Κατα δε την νῦν Ἀκραγαντινην ἐν τῳ Καιμικῳ καλεμενην, πολιν ἐπι πετρας ἐσαν πασῶν ὀχυρωτατην κατεσκευασε, και παντελῶς ἐυ βιας ἀναλωτον. Στενην και σκολιαν την αναβασιν ἀυτης φιλοτεχνησας, ἐποιησε δυνασθαι δια τριῶν ἢ τετταρων ἀνθρωπων φυλαττεσθαι. Diod. b. iv. vol. i. p. 321. ed. Weſſ.

† Diod. l. iv. v. i. p. 322.

the Cretans ſailed to Sicily, to revenge the death of that King, where they five years in vain beſieged Camicus; and on their return were overtaken by a ſtorm, ſhipwrecked at *Japygia*, and their veſſels deſtroyed, and that they there built the town of *Hyria*: the preſent *Oria* *.

The deſcription that Polybius gives, of the fortreſs of *Agrigentum*, agrees exceedingly well with that given by Diodorus, of the town ſaid to be built by Dædalus for Cocolus †.

Pauſanias calls the Sicanian town *Omphace*; and ſays that it was deſtroyed by *Antiphemus*, who led a Greek colony to Gela and brought a ſtatue thither, which was the work of Dædalus. This Antiphemus from the iſland of Rhodes, and *Entymus* from the iſland of Crete, joining their communities, eſtabliſhed a colony at Gela, in the firſt year of the 23d Olympiad, 686 years before Chriſt, and gave the town the Doric laws: no doubt the laws of Minos ‡.

About a hundred and eight years afterward, in the firſt year of the 50th Olympiad, 578

* See Letter lxxxi. † Pol. lib. ix. 21.

‡ Thuc. lib. iv. p. 380.

years

years before Chriſt, the citizens of Gela peopled *Agrigentum*, which they named after the river *Acragas*. Their leaders were *Ariſtonous*, and *Pyſtilus*; who gave the town the laws of Gela *.

The Romans afterward called this city Agrigentum, which name has nearly made the ancient Greek name forgotten. Agrigentum was ten miles in circumference; and it was indebted for its rapid increaſe to the fertility of its ſoil, the excellence of its ſituation, and the wiſdom of its laws. Yet from this very proſperity exceſs, voluptuouſneſs, and repeated ſlavery aroſe. Thoſe, who read in hiſtory, and have not remarked the circle of events ariſing from the laws of human nature †, muſt have read without remarking.

Some generations after the founding of Agrigentum, it was reduced under the yoke of deſpotiſm by the gloomy and cruel tyrant Phalaris. Who has not heard of his bull of braſs; in which the monſter put the unfortunate, and delighted himſelf with their dying cries, ſhrieks, and groans: which, modu-

* Thuc. lib. iv. p. 380.

† If the author had ſaid *the laws of ignorance*, I think he would have been nearer to the truth. T.

lated by the hollow braſs, ſounded like the roaring of a bull?

Wieland's deſcription of a juſt man concludes with the following words:

Der eh in Phalaris durchglüthem ſtier verdürbe
Eh er in Phrynens arm ein diadem erwürbe.

He'd rather in Phalaris' bull expire
Than in the arms of Phryne crowns acquire.

When Agrigentum had attained the ſummit of its greatneſs, it contained, according to Diodorus, twenty thouſand citizens; and, including thoſe who were not citizens, two hundred thouſand ſouls *. In this eſtimate the ſlaves no doubt were not included. Diogenes Laertius gives eight hundred thouſand, as the number of ſouls in Agrigentum †. Nor will this number appear extravagant, if we compare it with that which another writer gives of the population of Athens; where, in the time of Demetrius Phalereus, there were twenty-one thouſand citizens, ten thouſand free inhabitants without the right of citizenſhip, μετοικοι, and four hundred thouſand ſlaves ‡. It is highly probable that the

* Diod. xiii. v. i. p. 609.

† Diog. Laert. in vit. Emped. ‡ Athen. lib. vi.

rich and voluptuous Agrigentini had more ſlaves than the Athenians.

The vineyards of the territories of Agrigentum were large and famous for their generous produce. Moſt of the country was adorned with olive trees; prodigious numbers of which were planted: for, as the olive had not then been introduced to Africa, the people of Agrigentum gained immenſe wealth by the ſale of their oil *.

This wealth rendered them ſo effeminate that, when the city was hard preſſed by the beſieging Carthaginians, it was neceſſary to limit the voluptuouſneſs of their guards, on watch, to a bolſter, a mattraſs, a coverlet of hair, and two pillows †.

Antiſthenes, a citizen of Agrigentum, entertained the citizens in the ſtreets at the marriage of his daughter. The bride was eſcorted by above eight hundred chariots; and, not only all the horſemen of the city, but, thoſe likewiſe of the neighbouring towns were invited, and did honour to the cavalcade. All the altars, in the temples and the ſtreets, were ſpread with wood; and men were placed, who were provided with faggots,

* Diod. lib. xiii. vol. i. p. 606. † Diod. lib. xiii.

and

and piles of wood, and, when the bride and eſcort began their proceſſion, the token as appointed was given by fire from the fortreſs; on which, in an inſtant, the piles on the altars were all kindled, and the city appeared to be in flames *.

Seven years, before the ſiege, Exainetus, having obtained the prize at the Olympic games, made a ſolemn public entry into his native city; in which he pompouſly diſplayed himſelf in a chariot, followed by three hundred other chariots, each drawn by a pair of white horſes.

The great naturaliſt, philoſopher, and poet, Empedocles, ſaid of his fellow citizens, "The "people of Agrigentum feaſt as if they were "to die to-morrow; and build as if they were "to live for ever †."

They were famous for their hoſpitality. Empedocles ſays of this city

Ξεινων ἀιδοῖοι λιμενες, κακοτητος ἀπειροι.

A haven ſacred to ſtrangers, and free from malicious knavery ‡. Gellias § was famous for

* Diod. lib. xiii. † Diog. Laert. in vit. Emped.

‡ Diod. lib. xiii.

§ In Athenæus he is called Tellias, probably by an error of the tranſcriber.

his

his riches and hoſpitality. His palace contained lodgings for numerous gueſts; and ſlaves ſtood at his gates to invite all ſtrangers to enter. It happened one winter that five hundred horſemen came from Gela to Agrigentum; and Gellias entertained them all, and provided each man with a tunic and long robe. He had a cellar in his houſe, which was hewn in the rock, and in which there were three hundred veſſels each of a hundred meaſures. This cellar likewiſe contained a huge painted ciſtern, which held a thouſand meaſures, and from which the veſſels were filled through pipes.

Gellias was mean of perſon, but richly endowed in mind. Being once ſent ambaſſador to the *Centuripini*, who lived at the foot of Mount Ætna, when he roſe to addreſs the aſſembly, his unſeemly figure occaſioned an inceſſant laughter. He requeſted the people however to ceaſe their admiration, for that it was the cuſtom at Agrigentum to ſend the moſt comely perſons to the moſt famous cities, and thoſe who were inſignificant in appearance to inſignificant places *.

Among

* This Gellias once invited a perſon of a penurious and

Among the tyrants who governed Agrigentum was Theron; the ſon-in-law of the great Gelo, and a conſiderable perſon, who ruled both Agrigentum and Himera. His ſon Thraſydæus was his ſucceſſor; but loſt his dominions by an unfortunate war with Hiero the Firſt, tyrant of Syracuſe, the brother of Gelo.

In the third year of the 93d Olympiad, the year 403 before Chriſt, and three years after the conqueſt of Selinus and Himera, the Carthaginians cheriſhed the proud hope of ſubduing Sicily; and appointed Hannibal, who had deſtroyed thoſe cities, once more their general. Hannibal pleaded his great age; and Himilco, the ſon of Hanno, who was of the ſame family, was appointed his colleague. They embarked with a powerful army, and the Syracuſians armed, ſent to Sparta,

and ſevere temper, who ſcarcely would allow his ſlaves neceſſary reſt by night; and, after dinner, ſent for the children of his whole houſehold, and ſhared out nuts and figs among them. The miſer aſked Ποθεν τα παιδια τοσαυτα; "Where do all theſe children come from?" Gellias anſwered, Ταυτα ὁι ἐμοι ὀικεται ἐν νυξι ποιȣ̃σι; "Theſe are the work of my ſlaves by night." This anecdote is extracted by *Weſſeling* from *Stobenſis Florilegium*, and given as a note to Diodorus, vol. i. p. 609.

and

and to all the Greek towns in Italy for aid, and by their writings exhorted their friends of the Greek towns of Sicily to excite the people to combat for freedom. The people of Agrigentum, foreſeeing the ſtorm would firſt alight on them, collected the fruits of the fields and the riches of their country in their city *.

No ſooner had the Carthaginian fleet reached Sicily than the generals marched againſt Agrigentum, and formed two camps; one on the heights of forty thouſand men, part Africans and part Spaniards, and another near the city. The latter fortified itſelf with deep entrenchments, and palliſadoes. Ambaſſadors were then ſent to Agrigentum, inviting them either to take part in the war againſt Syracuſe or at leaſt to remain neuter: but theſe propoſitions were both refuſed, and the ſiege began.

The people of Agrigentum all took arms, and Dexippus, a Lacedemonian, who had lived ſome time in Gela and who was reſpected for being a Spartan, had lately arrived with fifteen hundred ſoldiers at the entreaty of Agrigentum, which had likewiſe hired eight hundred of the Campanians. The Cam-

* Diod. lib. xiii. v. i. p. 605.

panians

panians were ſtationed on a hill, that was called the Athenean, after a temple dedicated to Minerva; and the Carthaginian generals cauſed two large towers to be erected againſt a part of the walls. From theſe the walls during ſeveral days were aſſaulted: nor did the trumpet ſound the retreat till many of the Agrigentini had been ſlain. The next night the Agrigentini made a ſally, and burnt the war machines of the Carthaginians.

Hannibal commanded the ſepulchres to be deſtroyed, and a mount to be raiſed againſt the walls, that the town might be aſſaulted on ſeveral ſides; and the work was ſoon completed: but dreadful calamities befel the army. The monument of Theron, which was of a prodigious ſize, was ſtruck by lightning, and fearfully rent. It was therefore forbidden by the ſoothſayers to be touched. The peſtilence likewiſe broke out among the army: many died, and ſome endured intolerable pains. Hannibal was among the dead. The ſentinels of the watch declared that they ſaw the ghoſts of the departed appear by night. Himilco, who is occaſionally called Hamilcar, in Diodorus, probably by an error of the copyiſt, found it neceſſary, in order to encourage the

ſoldiers,

ſoldiers, again to remove the ſepulchres; and, according to the cuſtom of his country, to make an expiatory ſacrifice to the angry gods. A boy was accordingly ſacrificed to Saturn; and many offerings, probably of oxen or of horſes, were thrown into the ſea as expiations to Neptune.

The Syracuſians, who feared that the fate of Selinus and Himera might overtake Agrigentum, ſent an army under the conduct of Daphneus; which they ſtrengthened by their allies of Italy, and of Meſſina. This army was met on its march by ſoldiers from *Camarina* and Gela; with ſome of the Sicilians of the inland towns: ſo that the whole army conſiſted of thirty-four thouſand foot, and five thouſand horſe.

Himilco ſent Spaniards, Campanians, and others, to the number of forty thouſand, to oppoſe Daphneus; and the Syracuſian army had already croſſed the Himera (that on the ſouth) when it met the enemy.

After a hard fought field, the Syracuſians were victorious, killed more than ſix thouſand of the Carthaginians, and purſued them toward the city; but not without anxiety on the part of Daphneus, leſt, in the heat and irregularity

larity of purſuit, they might be enſnared by the army that remained with Himilco : a ſimilar overſight having occaſioned the loſs of Himera.

When the fugitives arrived at the camp of Himilco, the citizens of Agrigentum entreated their generals to profit by this opportunity; urging that this was the time to deſtroy the power of the enemy : but the generals declined acting, ſome ſay becauſe they were bribed, and others that they feared to leave the city a moment, leſt it ſhould be attacked by Himilco with an army that had not been wearied with fighting.

Meanwhile the fugitives took refuge in the camp, which was near the city; and of their former camp Daphneus poſſeſſed himſelf. Here the people of Agrigentum frequently came to meet their allies, from Syracuſe; and once, when Dexippus with others were come from the city, the people ſuddenly collected in multitudes, murmured againſt their generals, and accuſed them of neglecting to kill the many thouſands of the enemy, and of thus deſtroying their whole power. Enflamed by Menes, a leader of the Camarini, they diſdained to hear the defence of their generals,

and

and they were ſtoned. Argeius, the fifth in rank of field generals, was the only perſon ſpared; and that becauſe of his youth. Dexippus, the Lacedemonian, was even ſuſpected of treachery: for, according to the opinion of the people, he ſhould have urged his own knowledge of war, and have exerted the influence he poſſeſſed, in oppoſition to the contrary opinion.

After this had happened, Daphneus led his army againſt the enemy's camp, in the hope of conquering it; which hope he was obliged to renounce, when he perceived how ſtrongly it was fortified; and he could only ſend his cavalry to haraſs the Carthaginians, when they went on foraging parties.

A dearth began to be felt in the city: but the people of Agrigentum truſted in the ſtill greater dearth in the enemy's camp, and hoped that it would oblige Himilco to raiſe the ſiege. The Carthaginian general was aſſailed in his tent, by the mercenaries; particularly the Campanians, who clamoured loudly, and threatened to go over to the enemy: but Himilco had heard that the Syracuſians were ſending corn by ſea to Agrigentum, and requeſted that the ſoldiers would be pa-

tient only for ſome days, and he would then ſupply them plentifully; and, as a pledge of his promiſe, he preſented them the cup of the Carthaginians. Accordingly, he ordered forty galleys from Panormus and Motya unexpectedly to attack the Syracuſians; who, proud of their victory, and ſuppoſing the Carthaginians would not have the courage to appear again on the ſea, had ſent their tranſports very incautiouſly. Himilco ſunk twelve of their galleys, drove the reſt on ſhore, and ſeized on their tranſports.

This circumſtance changed the whole ſtate of affairs. The Campanians, who were in the pay of Agrigentum, for fifteen talents went over to the Carthaginians. The people of Agrigentum, as the Carthaginians foreſaw, had profuſely conſumed their proviſions; and now were panic-ſtruck, to find themſelves overtaken by famine. Some ſuppoſed that Dexippus had ſold himſelf for fifteen talents; becauſe he had told the generals of the Greeks, who came from Italy, that proviſions began to fail, and that they would do well to employ their arms in other quarters. But was not Dexippus juſtified in giving this counſel to the foreign chiefs? Did he not ſpeak the truth; ſince

ſince the city ſuffered a dearth, though theſe troops withdrew?

The foreign chiefs, whoſe time of ſervice was expired, forſook the city and departed by ſea, and, after their departure, the generals and principal people of Agrigentum endeavoured to obtain ſupplies: but in vain; they therefore informed the inhabitants of the neceſſity of forſaking the city.

The following night the people withdrew, weeping and wailing thus to leave their city, and all its wealth, to the Barbarians. Their affliction was ſtill heightened by being obliged to deſert the ſick, and the aged; who were incapable of following them, in their precipitate retreat. Some preferred death to this flight, and killed themſelves.

The fugitive multitude was conducted to Gela, by the Syracuſian army. The fields and the roads were full of women, children, and young virgins, who had been accuſtomed to the delicacies of domeſtic life: yet, animated as they were by their fears, they ſcarcely were ſenſible of the difficulties they had to encounter. They all ſafely arrived at Gela; and the Syracuſians afterward ceded Leontium to them, as a place of reſidence.

At break of day *, Himilco led his army into the forſaken city ; and put moſt of thoſe who had remained behind to death. Some, who had taken refuge in a temple, were dragged out and murdered by the Carthaginians. Gellias, who, becauſe of his wealth and ſtill more becauſe of his generoſity, was held in great reſpect, expected to have found ſafety in a temple of Minerva: but, when he perceived the rage of the enemy, he ſet fire to the temple, conſumed himſelf, and thus prevented the profanation of the place, the enriching of the foe, and the diſgrace of ſlavery.

Himilco plundered the temples and the houſes, and obtained an enormous booty. This city, which according to Diodorus contained two hundred thouſand inhabitants, and had never till then been deſtroyed, was one of the richeſt of the Greek cities, and in which the people indulged the height of luxury. Many paintings of the greateſt perfection were found ; and many ſtatues by the moſt famous

* I follow the reading of Tanaquillus Faber (*Tannequi Le Fèvre*, father of the famous Madame Dacier, an acute commentator on the ancients) of the text of Diodorus; thus : ἁμα τῳ ὀρθρῳ: inſtead of the feeble but uſual reading ἁμα τῳ φοβῳ, which gives a vitiated ſenſe to the paſſage.

maſters.

maſters. The principal of theſe were ſent to Carthage, by Himilco; and, among others, the famous bull of Phalaris. The reſt of the booty he ſuffered to be publicly ſold. Two hundred and ſixty years afterward, Scipio, the conqueror of Carthage, ſent this brazen bull, and others of the captured works of art, back to the Agrigentini; and the bull was ſtill in exiſtence, in the time of Diodorus *.

Himilco, after a ſiege of eight months, having entered the city of Agrigentum a lit-

* Diod. lib. xiii. v. i. p. 609.

On this occaſion, Diodorus reproaches the hiſtorian *Timæus* for having falſely maintained that this bull had never been in exiſtence; and adduces as a proof that it was ſent back by Scipio. Weſſeling cites a paſſage from a ſcholiaſt on Pindar, who ſays, Τον τῦ Φαλαριδος ταυρον οἱ Ἀκραγαντινοι κατεποντωσαν, ὡς φησι Τιμαιος. Τον γαρ ἐν τῃ πολει δεικνυμενον μη ειναι τῦ Φαλαριδος, καθαπερ ἡ πολλη κατεχει δοξη, ἀλλ' εἰκων ἐστι Γελωνος τῦ ποταμῦ. "Timæus ſays the "Agrigentini threw the bull of Phalaris into the ſea. "That which was ſhewn as ſuch in the city was not, as "it had been generally ſuppoſed to be, the bull of Pha-"laris; but the image of the river *Gelas*." Diodorus therefore appears not to have conſulted Timæus; but to have been guilty of a ſlip of the memory. The river *Gelas* was ſtamped on the coins of the *Geloi*; which, like many rivers among the ancients, was repreſented as a bull.

tle before the winter ſolſtice, did not eraſe it, but quartered his army in the houſes.

When the fate of Agrigentum was known through Sicily, it filled the iſland with ſuch terror that many of the inhabitants of the Greek towns fled to Syracuſe; and others ſent their wives, children, and effects, to Italy.

Forty years after this misfortune, the people of the once more inhabited city took part with Dion, againſt the younger Dionyſius.

At the time that Timoleon had relieved Sicily from tyrants, and had reſtored it to freedom, proſperity, and peace, not only many of its former citizens but other new ſettlers came over from Greece to Agrigentum *. In the time of Agathocles, the Agrigentini, aided by Gela and Meſſina, endeavoured to free Syracuſe from the yoke of that tyrant; and ſome years afterward contended for the ſovereignty of Sicily.

When Pyrrhus went to Sicily, 280 years before the birth of Chriſt, Phintias had ſeized on the government of Agrigentum.

During the Punic wars, this city was twice

* Plut. Life of Timoleon.

taken

taken by the Romans, and once by the Carthaginians. In the year 825 after the birth of Chriſt, it ſurrendered to the Saracens; and in the year 920, when the Saracens of Sicily reſiſted the Saracens of Africa, Agrigentum took a conſpicuous part in this revolt *.

In the year 1086, it was conquered by Count Roger, the Norman †.

No where are there ſo many grand remains of ancient Greek magnificence to be ſeen as in Girgenti. The moſt ancient ruins ſtand in the preſent Girgenti, which occupies the place where, long before the founding of Agrigentum by the Greeks, Dædalus built the city for Cocolus, which was called *Omphace*; though the height on which it ſtood was afterward called *Camicus*. At the time that it was inhabited by the Greeks, the citadel was built here; and here likewiſe a temple was erected by the Agrigentini to Zeus, the Guardian of the City. Phalaris, a Cretan, who ſuperintended the building, artfully made this a pretext to obtain a guard from the citizens, and became their tyrant. There are no remains of the colonnade; and one of the ſtill remaining walls of the inner temple ſerves

* Lex. Top. Sic. † Fazello.

as a ſupport to the habitation of a poor family.

There is an ancient ſarcophagus in the principal church; containing *baſſi relievi*, that repreſent the hiſtory of Hippolytus. On one ſide the beautiful youth is ſeen going with his companions, horſes, and hounds. The old nurſe of Phædra informs him of the paſſion which his ſtep-mother has conceived for him. The form of Hippolytus is full of dignity, and beauty. On the oppoſite ſide, the youth is chaſing the wild boar. The third compartment exhibits the moment when the terrified horſes, beholding the monſter, overturn the chariot. The young hero lies dying under the wheels. The fourth ſhews Phædra ſinking inanimate into the arms of her nurſe; after hearing the tale of the death of her beloved. Her right arm, in which relaxation and want of power are inimitably expreſſed, is ſupported by a virgin. Two others endeavour to recall the trembling queen, and reſtore her bewildered ſenſes, by muſic. Below her ſeat a Cupid maliciouſly peeps. I have ſeen no ſarcophagus in Italy equally beautiful, and animated, in the expreſſion.

The church itſelf is remarkable for its acouſtic

acouſtic architecture; which muſt not be aſcribed to intention in the architect, who lived in the eleventh century, but to accident. If a man place himſelf above the altar, immediately under the arching of the cupola, he will hear every thing that is ſaid in a whiſper at the entrance of the church: though the diſtance is a hundred and ſixteen paces.

Without the preſent Girgenti, but within the circumference of the ancient city, there are more beautiful remains of the old Doric architecture exiſting than perhaps in any other part of Sicily, Italy, or Greece.

A church has been built on the foundation of a temple, which ſome affirm was conſecrated to Deo, and Perſephoneia: or Ceres and Proſerpine: but this aſſertion is doubtful. We only know that a temple was built to Proſerpine; which we learn from the beginning of the twelfth Pythian ode of Pindar, on Midas, the victor in playing the flute.

Αἰτεῶ σε φιλαγλαε, καλ-
λιστα βροτεᾶν πολιων,
Φερσεφονας ἑδος, ἀ-
τ' ὀχθαις ἐπι μηλοβοτε
Ναιεις Ακραγαντος εὐ-
θμα τον κολωναν, ὠ αναστ-
ᾳ' ἱλαος, ἀθανατων

Ἀνδρων

Ἀνδρων τε συν ἐυμενειᾳ,
Δεξαι στεφανωμα τοδ' ἐκ
Πυθωνος ευδοξῳ Μιδᾳ,
Ἀυτον τε νιν ——

κ. τ. λ.

Moſt fair of cities, and moſt fam'd,
Bleſt ſeat of Proſerpine proclaim'd,
Built on the banks of Acragas,
Where young lambs crop the verdant graſs,
Oh Queen benign, receive the boon,
The Pithyan crown by Midas won;
And him receive, thy lov'd victorious ſon!

On the weſt of the preſent town, higher than the neighbouring hills, is the hill formerly called the hill of Athene, or Minerva: Ἀθεναιος λοφος: on which a temple was dedicated to this Goddeſs; the ſame no doubt to which Gellias ſet fire.

Of the building which is now called the temple of Juno much is preſerved. It contains ſix pillars in breadth, and thirteen in length. A ſtorm from the north-weſt, in the year 1774, injured the ruins that had reſiſted former tempeſts: for which reaſon the architrave, on one ſide, has been ſupported by four pilaſters between the pillars. One of the pillars, like thoſe of the temple of Neptune in Pæſtum, has ſuffered by lightning: half of the chapiter

chapiter is broken off, and lies on the ground. This temple, having been built on an unequal rock, was unequal in its foundation.

The ſtructure which is called the temple of Concord is of moſt extraordinary beauty. It is encircled by a colonnade of ſix pillars in breadth, and thirteen in length; which are raiſed upon four ſteps. Within this is a temple raiſed about an ell; the walls of which on both the longeſt ſides has ſix open arches*. To each of the ſhorteſt ſides of the temple is a leſs and deeper antichamber †; which is formed by the projecting wall of the temple, and the colonnade. Between the temple and theſe antichambers are two pillars on each ſide, which, with the ſmall projecting ſquare pilaſters of the wall, ſupport a frontiſpiece. The ſhorteſt ſides of the colonnade likewiſe have their frontiſpieces: as at the temple of Neptune in Pæſtum, and the temple in Egeſta. The whole architrave is in good preſervation.

In one corner, there is a ſmall ſtaircaſe, conſiſting of forty-one ſteps, in the wall; to the top of which they lead. The pillars ſtand

* *Hallen:* called by Swinburne *Doors.* T.

† *Cella;* Swinburne. T.

on

on the uppermoſt ſtep, having no other baſe; after the ancient Doric manner.

A Roman inſcription has occaſioned antiquaries to conclude that this temple was dedicated to Concord, and erected by the *Lilybætani:* probably after two contending towns had been reconciled.

But what has a Roman inſcription, the authenticity of which is doubtful, to do with the temple of a Greek city: whoſe noble architecture denotes an era ſo ancient that little Rome was ſcarcely ſo much as mentioned, in mighty Agrigentum?

Not far from this temple, ſubterranean ſepulchres are found in the rock; moſt of which are cut at right angles. One burial vault leads to another; and the largeſt is round, with a walled conic arching.

According to Diodorus, the pomp of the Agrigentini was not ſufficiently diſplayed in erecting tombs to themſelves: they built them even for their war horſes; nay for the favourite birds of young women and children *.

There is a tradition concerning one of theſe monuments; that which is called the

* Diod. lib. xiii. v. i. p. 607.

ſepulchre

ſepulchre of Theron, which ſome of the Agrigentini * affirm was erected in honour of the horſe of Phalaris. In my opinion, it is not ſo ancient; for it is embelliſhed with Ionic pillars, and it certainly is not the ſepulchre of Theron: for it is not ſufficiently magnificent, nor are any of the traces of the lightning diſcovered by which it was ſhattered at the time that the Carthaginians beſieged the city.

The temple, which is not improperly called that of Hercules, conſiſts of a pile of ſtones and was exceedingly large. The pillars that are thrown down are ſo defaced that, on a firſt view, they in many parts appear as if they were but half finiſhed: did not the pillars that are ſtanding bear deeper marks of the deſolating hand of time.

Cicero, in one of his orations againſt Verres, tells us that this ſhameleſs prætor intended to have ſtolen the image of Hercules by night: but that the profanation was prevented, by the aſſembling of the citizens. He ſays he had ſcarcely ſeen any thing more beautiful than this Hercules: *quo non facile quidquam dixerim me vidiſſe pulchrius.*

There can be no doubt but that the huge

* I ſuppoſe the people of Girgenti are meant. T.

pile, which lies immediately before the laſt mentioned temple, is juſtly called the temple of the Olympic Jupiter: the magnitude of its ruins makes it not to be miſtaken. This temple was begun before the ſiege, and almoſt completed *.

In the time of Diodorus, it continued in the ſtate that it was when the Carthaginians took the city. The Agrigentini, in the courſe of four hundred years, had not ſufficiently recovered their misfortunes to complete the building.

According to the teſtimony of Diodorus, it was 340 feet in length, 60 in breadth, and a hundred and twenty in height above the ground: χωρις τε κρηπιδωματος: the largeſt temple in Sicily, and equal to the largeſt in

* Diod. ib. We learn from Polybius, in the ninth book, that it remained incomplete. Και ὁ τε Ὀλυμπιε νεως συντελειαν μεν ὐκ ἐιληφε. Κατα δε την επιβολην, και το μεγεθος, ὐδ' ὁποιε ὐν των κατα την Ἑλλαδα δοκει λειπεσθαι. "This "temple of the Olympian Zeus was actually not com-"pleted: but it appears that, in plan and magnitude, it "was inferior to no temple in Greece." It is evident from the context that we ſhould read συντελειαν; and not πολυτελειαν, as was perceived by Cluverius, and Weſſeling; who cites this paſſage in his edition of Diodorus. Not to mention that the expreſſion πολυτελειαν ὐκ ἐιληφε is not in my opinion the idiom of the Greek.

Greece. The pillars projected a little more than half out of the wall; for their outward round circumference amounted to twenty feet, and only to twelve on the inner flat side. The flutings of the pillars were so capacious that one of these flutings would contain the body of a man. Either I was mistaken, or in the outward round circumference of one of the thrown down pillars, I counted eleven or twelve such flutings; each of which was actually wide enough to admit the body of a man.

The portico was of a prodigious size. On the east side of this portico there was a basso relievo, of extraordinary workmanship, representing the giants' war; and on the west the taking of Troy *.

The last remaining section of these ruins, which was supported by three colossal statues and three pillars, was thrown down in the year 1401. The ruins are called by the country people, *Il tempio de i giganti.* The temple of the giants †.

A fragment of a pillar, which is not buried under the other ruins, but is accessible, proves the truth of what Diodorus has said

* Diod. † Fazello.

of

of the pillars: a man may lie down in the fluting. Riedefel, an accurate obſerver and learned antiquary, is of opinion that, though the account of Diodorus is very perfect and juſt, yet, in what relates to the length and breadth of the temple, there is an error of the tranſcriber. Riedefel ſuppoſes the probable height of the temple, when it was ſtanding, to be a hundred and fifty palms: that is, about a hundred and twenty feet. He found the circumference of the pillars to be forty-two palms: or thirty-four feet: *pieds de roi*. However, as it is difficult to judge of the length and breadth from theſe ruins, the ſtatement of Diodorus might be accurate in all reſpects.

Captain Colſon meaſured a triglyph, which was nine feet and a half high, and five feet four inches broad; and this ſingle circumſtance will be ſufficient to afford you ſome idea of the aſtoniſhing magnitude of the whole.

I am aſſured that this temple, as well as that of Selinus, was reduced to a pile of ſtones by a dreadful earthquake: or probably by ſeveral. The deſtructive hand of man demoliſhes in a heap: the powerful arm of nature alone could hurl theſe cumbrous maſſes in this intermingled

gled confuſion. Ever youthful, ever victorious, ſhe ſmiles beneath the ruins of proud but comparatively impotent art. Among theſe piles earth ſends forth a verdant grove of fig and almond trees. The firſt piſtachio tree I ſaw was in the temple of the Olympian Zeus; and was at once covered with bloom and with numerous red nuts, that were but juſt appearing.

Between two remains of temples, one of which took the name of Caſtor and Pollux and the other of Vulcan, each of them appearing to have been equal in magnitude and architecture to what is called the temple of Concord, the bed of the fiſh-pond is evidently perceptible which Diodorus has thus deſcribed.

"Near this temple" (of the Olympian Zeus) "there was a pond ſunk of ſeven *ſtadia* in "circumference, and twenty cubits deep; in "which fiſh of various kinds were kept for "public feſtivals, with ſwans, and other birds, "for the pleaſure of the inhabitants *."

This place is very pleaſant under its preſent change of form. The pool communicated with the river *Drago*, the *Acragas* of the ancients; and, the bed of the pool being dry, its

* Diod. lib. xi. v. i. p. 423.

ſhady hollow is covered with a large and lovely garden.

Vaſt remains are ſeen from the walls; and nature herſelf preſents her high rocky back, of which architecture might eaſily have taken advantage. In theſe rocks various ſepulchres have been hewn; and probably for the warriors who had fallen in defence of their country, and from whoſe departed ſpirits aid was expected. No wonder that the Carthaginians were ſtruck with terror, when, after having deſtroyed theſe ſepulchres, they imagined they beheld the wandering ſhades of the dead.

We likewiſe ſaw the ruins of a bridge over the river; and two circular apertures near the preſent town, which denote great cavities in the earth, and are probably the remains of ſubterranean aqueducts: as ſuppoſed by Diodorus. After the victory of Gelo over the Carthaginians, they were conſtructed under the direction of one *Phæax*; and, becauſe of their excellence, in honour of him were called *Phæacian* *.

During the interval between the victory of Gelo, 497 years before the birth of Chriſt,

* Diod. lib. xi. v. i. p. 423.

and

and the deſtruction of Agrigentum, 406 years before Chriſt, the greateſt temples in Sicily, at the ruins of which we are now amazed, were probably built.

The Carthaginian priſoners were divided by Gelo; and each of the friendly cities had a number, equal to the number of their citizens that ſerved in the war. By this diviſion, Agrigentum obtained many; and the more becauſe, after the battle, many of the fugitives had been ſeized on the Agrigentine territories. Several of the citizens of Agrigentum had five hundred Carthaginians; and theſe, according to Diodorus, were moſt of them employed in public works: eſpecially in hewing of ſtone, part of which was uſed to build their great temple, and part for the ſubterranean aqueducts.

It appears probable that the temples in Selinus and Egeſta were undertaken with emulous magnificence; and I believe that, like the temple of the Olympian Zeus in Agrigentum, they were not completed. The Selinuntii could not have partaken of the ſlaves of Gelo; for they were the allies of the Carthaginians.

The aſpect of Agrigentum muſt have been

grand: for it was built upon five hills. The preſent Girgenti ſtands on a hill, and enjoys a very pure air. The valley extends between theſe heights and the ſea ſhore; and is divided into fertile corn fields, vineyards, and orchards of olive, almond, mulberry, St. John's bread, fig, and pomegranate, trees. Theſe fruits are all excellent in their kind: nor can I forget the pleaſure I received under a mulberry tree of extraordinary ſize; that, while we were overcome by the great heats we had endured, in going from ruin to ruin, ſometimes riding and ſometimes walking, refreſhed us with its paradiſaical fruit.

The almond tree is likewiſe here very large; and the unripe almonds are now eaten, and appear to me much better taſted than when ripe: beſide which they are held to be very healthy. Olive trees and prolific corn fields every where delight the eye.

The *Drago*, or ancient *Acragas*, coming from the north, flows round the town; four Italian miles on the ſouth ſide of which it empties itſelf into the ſea *. It is joined by the brook

* I think I may venture to affirm that Cluverius is miſtaken, when he calls the *Fiume di Naro* the *Acragas*. The

brook *Rucello*, between the ſea and the city; and this brook, with the Acragas, made the ancient city a peninſula.

The river *Naro*, formerly called the *Hypſas*, runs on the eaſt; at the diſtance of three Italian miles. But this is not the beautiful, abundant, and ſhady *Hypſas*, which is now called the *Belici*, and which wanders not far from the ruins of Selinus.

The

The paſſage which he cites, from Polybius, appears to favour my opinion: for Polybius ſays—"The *Acragas* ran on the ſouth ſide of the city: but that ſide which is oppoſite to the ſetting ſun and the wind called *libs* is watered by the river *Hypſas*." Ῥει γαρ αὐτη παρα μεν την νοτιον πλευραν ὁ συνωνυμος τη πολει, παρα δε την ἐπι τας δυσεις και τον λιβα τετραμμενην ὁ προσαγορευομενος Ὑψας *. The Acragas winds round the ancient city on the right; and how could the inhabitants have named their city after a diſtant river, inſtead of the river that bathed its walls? All traces of Agrigentum are loſt long before you come to the Naro. Speaking of the founding of the city, Pindar ſays:

Καμοντες ὁι πολλα δυμῳ
Ἱερον ἐχον οἰκημα
Ποταμιδ, Σικελιας τ' ἐταν
Ὀφθαλμος.———

κ. τ. λ.

"After great affliction and many toils, they obtained "the ſacred dwelling of the ſtream; and were the eye of

* Polyb. ix. 21.

The preſent little Girgenti, ſeen at a diſtance, promiſes much; for it is built on a high broad rock, and appears larger than it is. The grand aſpect of the ancient Agrigentum, as ſeen from the ſea, is alluded to in the following paſſage:

Arduus inde Acragas oſtentat maxima longe
Mœnia, magnanimûm quondam generator equorum.

VIR. Æn. iii. 703.

Then *Agragas* with lofty ſummits crown'd;
Long for the race of warlike ſteeds renown'd.

DRYDEN, v. 924.

If I may judge from the only perſon with whom I am acquainted at this place, the inhabitants of Girgenti ſtill preſerve the virtue

"Sicily*." I do not think, as ſome have explained this paſſage, that, by the word eye, Pindar alluded to the watchfulneſs of Agrigentum: but rather to the beauty of this city, and of Syracuſe; which cities were equally the eye of Sicily. With reſpect to the Drago, Fazello, Amico, and other Sicilians, are of opinion that it is the ancient Acragas!

* Weſt tranſlates

A race long exerciſed in woes;
Ere, ſmiling o'er her kindred flood,
The manſion of their wiſh'd repoſe,
Their ſacred city ſtood:
And through amaz'd Sicilia ſhone
The luſtre of their fair renown. T.

of

of hoſpitality. The Canon Spoto overwhelmed us with civilities of every kind, ſupplied us with his own furniture at our inn, and covered our table with his hoſpitable preſents. On our account, he deferred a journey which he intended to take, and is now employed in writing us letters of recommendation. Hoſpitality is a virtue common to all the Italians and Sicilians, who anticipate the wants of ſtrangers: but few of them ſo well underſtand as the Canon Spoto that repoſe, unreſtraint, and the free diſpoſal of their own time, are among the preſſing neceſſities of certain travellers.

He poſſeſſes a valuable collection of Greek vaſes, which have been found in the ſepulchres of the ancient city.

He likewiſe ſhewed us the handſome building, the reſpectable library, and a fine collection of ancient coins: which had been preſented to the ſeminary by Count Lucheſe.

I met with the *ferula*, or fennel giant: a plant which bears an umbellated flower, or tuft. The Greeks called it νάρθηξ. It attains the height of a man, greatly reſembles the fennel, which here grows equally high, and the ſtalk is hollow and filled with a kind of pith,

pith, that kindles like a match, and long continues to glimmer. Hence the ancients feigned that Prometheus brought fire from heaven in the ſtalk of this plant. Heſiod ſays Zeus had concealed the fire: but that the ſon of Japetus ſtole it, for the uſe of men, without the knowledge of Zeus, by putting it into a hollow ſtalk of this plant.

Κρυψε δε πυρ. Το μεν ἀυθις ἐυς παις Ιαπετοιο
Ἐκλεψ' ἀνθρωποισι Διος παρα μητιοεντος
Ἐν κοιλῳ ναρθηκι, λαθων Δια τερπικεραυνον.

But from Prometheus 'twas conceal'd in vain,
Which for the uſe of man he ſtole again,
And, artful in his fraud, brought from above,
Clos'd in a hollow cane, deceiving Jove.

COOKE's Heſiod, b. i. l. 73.

In Æſchylus, Prometheus, when chained upon the rock, exclaims

Ναρθηκοπληρωτον θυρωμενος πυρος
Πηγην κλοπαιαν, η διδασκαλος τεχνης
Πασης βροτοις πεφηνε, και μεγας πορος;
Τοιῶνδε ποινας ἁμπλακημἁτων τινω,
Ὑπαιθριος δεσμοῖσι πασσαλευτος ὠν.

Hid in a hollow cane the fount of fire
I privately convey'd, of every art
Productive and the nobleſt gift to men.
And for this ſlight offence woe, woe is me!
I bear theſe chains, fix'd to this ſavage rock,
Unſhelter'd from th' inclemencies of th' air.

POTTER, Prometheus Chained.

The Bacchantes in Euripides thus ſing:

'Ο Βακχευς δ' ἐχων
Πυρσωδη φλογα πευκας,
'Εκ ναρθηκος ἀϊσσει
Δρομῳ και χοροις ἐρεθιζων πλανατας,
'Ιαχαις τ' ἀναπαλλων,
Τροφερον πλοκαμον εἰς ἀἰθερα ριπτων.

But Bacchus, waving in his hand
The torch that from his hallow'd wand
Flames high, his roving *Bacchæ* leads;
And, ſhouting as he nimbly treads,
Flings to the wanton wind his ſtreaming hair.

POTTER, v. 153.

END OF VOL. III.